

Baker in

Rape-Theft

Case Charged

BERKELEY—James Reese, 22-year-old Oakland baker, is scheduled to enter a plea Tuesday to charges of rape, robbery and burglary involving a University of California graduate student.

Police Insp. Ralph Schillinger signed complaints yesterday naming Reese, of 506 32nd St., Oakland.

The South Campus area attack occurred March 30, when a man entered the 23-year-old woman's apartment at dawn through an open window, threatened her with scissors, tied her, assaulted her and, before leaving, took money from her.

The burglary charge alleges Reese entered a building with the intention of committing a felony.

Terrorist

Suspect

JUN 13 1966 Surrenders

James Rreece, 21, who was the Eastbay's most wanted man briefly following a robbery attempt, a wild running gunfight and the kidnaping of two men, surrendered quietly to Oakland police yesterday.

Rreece was arraigned today before Hayward Municipal Judge T. L. Foley on two counts of robbery, two counts of kidnaping, one count of assault with intent to commit murder and one count of assault with a deadly weapon.

He was held in lieu of \$11,000 bail, and was scheduled to enter a plea at 9 a.m. next Thursday.

When Rreece, accompanied by attorney Don Warden, presented himself at the Hall of Justice, it ended a massive 24-hour manhunt in East Oakland.

Warden said Rreece called him yesterday morning and told me he had learned from the newspaper that there had been a warrant out for his arrest. He asked if I would assist him."

Rreece was unhurt when he surrendered. It had been speculated the gunman involved in Saturday's wild chase might have been wounded.

The afternoon of violence started at 1 p.m. Saturday when a man identified as Rreece walked into Davidson's Pharmacy, 18551 Mission Blvd., Hayward, brandished a snub-nosed .38 revolver and told druggist Alton L. Davidson, 46, "I want your safe."

When Davidson said he only had a cash register, the gunman forced him and a clerk, Alverta Scott, 38, into a back room. A customer walked into the store, and the bandit ordered Davidson to wait on him, threatening to kill him if he sounded an alarm.

Davidson ran past the customer, out the door to a service station across the street, where he began to tell by-standers

Continued on Page 6, Col. 1

door, narrowly missing Deputy

Kidnaping enders

ate and mathematics major from Pebble Beach.

Continued from Page 1

about the holdup. The man identified as Reece followed him out the door, fired two shots at the crowd and then ran around a corner.

No one was injured.

Donald Peterson, 42, a United Air Lines ticket clerk, was painting his backyard fence at 1143 Georgian St. "Hey there," Peterson yelled, and then hit the dirt as three shots whizzed past him.

As the gunman ran, he was also spotted by off-duty sheriff's deputy Merle Kemp, 27, of 17526 Langton Way, who was working in his yard. Kemp ran into his house, got his revolver and pursued the bandit, firing five shots as he ran.

Around the corner, at 1140 Gilbert St., Reece spotted Lewis Stafford, 73, rickshawing peas in the backyard. He forced him into the house at gunpoint and held Stafford and his wife, Virginia, 70, hostage.

Minutes later, with the gun at Stafford's back, Reece walked past a dozen police and sheriff's deputies who had swarmed to the house. He forced Stafford into his car, which was parked in the closed garage, then got behind the wheel and crashed it through the garage door, only to be stopped by a chain across the driveway.

After failing to batter the car through the rear wall of the garage, Reece went back to the house and yelled "I want to see a cop."

Deputy Jim Sutton turned his revolver over to another officer, walked into the house and was told Stafford would be killed unless a patrol car was given to the gunman.

Sutton went back outside and pulled his car into the driveway. Reece came out with Stafford and got into the car, forced Sutton to handcuff himself and then ordered him to drive away.

While he was still inside the Stafford home Reece snapped off a shot through the screen door, narrowly missing Deputy Sheriff Larry Santos.

With the way cleared by po-

lice and Highway Patrol radio broadcasts, Sutton drove the car to East Oakland, where Reece forced him out of the car on Harmon Avenue. Three blocks later, at 60th and East 14th Street, he abandoned the car and Stafford in a parking lot and fled on foot.

A door-to-door search of the neighborhood failed to produce the suspect.

Reece, of 506 32nd St., Oakland, was identified by sheriff's deputies and at least a half dozen witnesses as the gunman.

He had no weapon in his possession when he surrendered.

After searching Reece, Oakland police transported him to the county jail at the courthouse.

Reece had been released from the Alameda County Jail May 19 on \$12,000 bail, and was awaiting trial on charges of raping a 20-year-old University of California coed and burglarizing her apartment April 20.

Officers said Reece was recently released from Atascadero State Hospital, where he had undergone psychiatric treatment for two years following a 1964 burglary and robbery in Oakland.

TR 5C JUN 1 2 1968

A crazed gunman, frustrated in a Hayward drugstore holdup Saturday, grabbed two hostages—one of them a deputy sheriff—and forced them to drive him in a sheriff's car to Oakland in a wild, bullet-punctuated escape. Fifteen shots were fired.

One of the hostages was Lewis P. Stafford, 73, a retired sales manager suffering from a heart condition who was kidnapped from the garden of his home at 1140 Gilbert St., Hayward, where he was picking peas for dinner. The other was Deputy Jim Sutton, who disarmed himself and tried to reason with the gunman.

The gunman fired eight shots and threatened his way through a police cordon which had surrounded Stafford's home.

An off-duty deputy fired five shots at him during the wild flight and may have wounded him. Two service station attendants also saw the flight and fired two shots at him.

The hostages were released unharmed in East Oakland about an hour later. The bandit then fled on foot, triggering a massive, door-to-door hunt.

The suspect, identified by deputies and at least a half dozen witnesses as James Reece, 21, a former mental patient with a criminal record dating back to 1958, was still at large late Saturday night.

The sheriff's department said Reece, was awaiting Superior Court trial on charges of raping a University of California coed and burglarizing her apartment in Berkeley on April 20.

Reece was released from the Alameda County Jail May 19 on \$12,000 bail. Officers said that Reece recently was released from Atascadero State Hospital, where he was confined two years on charges arising out of a Jan. 22, 1964 Oakland burglary and robbery. He lives at 506 32nd St., Oakland.

A total of 15 shots were exchanged between the suspect and law officers during the escape.

The flight started at David-

Continued Page 8, Col. 1

ees Pair n Battle

son's Pharmacy, 18551 Mission Blvd., Hayward, about 1 p.m., when the suspect walked into the druvstore, brandished a revolver at druggist Alton L. Davidson, 46, and declared: "I want your safe."

Davidson said he had only a cash register and the gunman

and fired two shots at Davidson, then disappeared around the block.

While running, he fired two more shots at Donald Peterson, 42, a United Air Lines ticket seller who was painting his back yard fence at 1143 Georgian St.

FORCED INTO HOUSE

Around the corner on Gilbert Street he grabbed Stafford, 73, and forced him into the house where he terrorized Stafford and his wife, Virginia, 70.

At this time Hayward police and sheriff's cars swarmed to the house. The suspect fired a shot at Deputy Larry Santos, narrowly missing him, and held a dozen other officers at bay.

The gunman then forced Stafford into the garage and into his car, where he tried futilely to smash the car through the closed doors, first the front door and then the garage rear wall.

Suddenly the gunman yelled: "I want to see a cop."

Deputy Sutton handed his gun to another officer and walked into the home. The suspect told Sutton that he would kill Stafford unless he was allowed to escape.

Sutton left the house and, after getting permission from his superiors, drove his sheriff's car back into the Stafford driveway.

The gunman ordered Sutton to handcuff himself and then, using Stafford as a shield, forced both men into the car.

FOLLOWING CAR

The suspect noted a sheriff's car contining Deputy Orville Beardsley following and ordered Sutton to radio him to turn off. Beardsley did.

Sutton then was ordered to drive to East Oakland and finally, at 552 Harmon Ave., he was forced out of the car.

Three blocks away at 60th Avenue and East 14th Street the suspect drove into a parking lot behind a bar and jumped out of the car, leaving Stafford behind.

Deputy Sheriff Merle Kemp, 27, of 17526 Langton Way, was off duty and working in his yard. He saw the chase, ran to his house and got his revolver and fired five shots at a armed suspect. He said he thought his last shot was him.

"I think he staggered. He stopped to fire twice," Kemp said.



DEPUTY MERLE KEMP

He fired five shots



JAMES REECE

Sought in kidnap

herded him and a clerk, Alverta Scott, 38, into a back room.

He forced Davidson to wait on a customer who entered, threatening to kill him if he sounded an alarm. Davidson started to wait on the customer but instead darted out the door and ran to a service station across the street.

The suspect ran out the door

Reece to Plea

On Charges

TRD JUN 17 1966
Tuesday

HAYWARD—James Reece, 21, of 506 32nd St., Oakland, will appear in Hayward Municipal Court at 9 a.m. Tuesday to plea on charges of robbery, kidnapping, assault and assault with intent to commit murder.

Reece is charged with the robbery of an Ashland District drug store, that resulted in a running gunfight with a cordon of private citizens, police and sheriff's deputies.

During the chase, Reece managed to hold Lewis Stafford, 73, and Sheriff's Deputy James Sutton as hostages at gunpoint as he escaped from the Stafford home at 1140 Gilbert St. in Sutton's unmarked car. Stafford and Sutton were released by Reece in Oakland unharmed.

Reece surrendered to Oakland police less than 24 hours after the robbery of Davidson's Pharmacy, 18551 Mission Blvd. He is being held at Santa Rita Sheriff's Rehabilitation Center in lieu of \$11,000 bail.

Innocent Pleas Entered In Kidnaping

HAYWARD — Hayward Municipal Court Judge T. Lester Foley yesterday entered innocent pleas for James Reece 21, charged with the robbery of an Ashland District pharmacy and the kidnap of two men.

Reece, charged with the June 11 robbery of Davidson's Pharmacy in addition to kidnap, assault and assault with intent to commit murder, was accused of stalling during his third appearance yesterday.

Judge Foley entered the plea for Reece after Reece asked that his case be set aside until his lawyer could appear in court. After entering innocent pleas for the five felony counts, Judge Foley set 9 a.m., July 7, for Reece's preliminary hearing in San Leandro Municipal Court.

Reece declined to waive the time requirement that he be tried within 45 days of his arrest. He is being held at Santa Rita Sheriff's Rehabilitation Center in lieu of \$11,000 bail.

Deputy Hits Escaper in Kidnaping

TR 6 JUL 7. 1966

James Reece, 21, accused kidnaper and robber, was shot in the leg by an Alameda County sheriff's deputy this afternoon when he attempted to escape outside the Alameda County Courthouse.

Reece broke away as he was being taken back to jail in the courthouse after a court appearance in Hayward.

Deputy Sheriff William Williams, who had driven him in a station wagon into the underground driveway, fired a shot into the pavement but it ricocheted into Reece's leg.

Gunshot Fells Suspect in Courthouse Escape Attempt

TUE JUL 8 1966

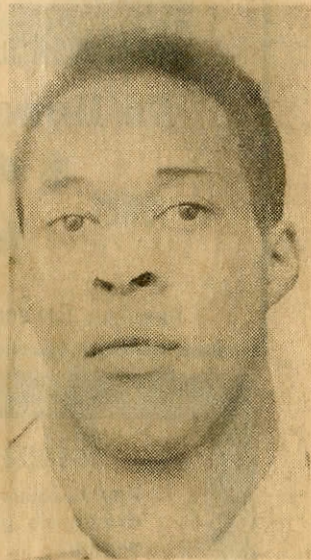
James Reece, accused kidnaper and robber, was shot in the leg by a sheriff's deputy when he tried to escape in broad daylight yesterday from the Alameda County Courthouse here.

Reece, who reached his 22nd birthday yesterday, bolted from custody as he was to be taken from the courthouse tunnel to the maximum-security holding facility on the 10th floor. He was being returned after a court appearance in San Leandro.

His escape was slowed by a filing cabinet drawer tossed in his path by a quick-thinking carpenter, and stopped by a ricocheting .38 caliber slug.

Deputy William Williams said he had driven Reece from San Leandro Municipal Court into the tunnel under the courthouse, stopped his station wagon, and phoned for a jailer to assist in taking Reece upstairs.

The jailer, Deputy Henry Marshall, came to the tunnel



JAMES REECE

and Williams unlocked the special station wagon. Reece suddenly sprinted through the tunnel toward the 13th Street exit. Williams and Marshall ran in

pursuit, with Williams yelling, "Halt! Halt!"

Standing at the side of the tunnel and between Reece and the street, was the county's carpentry shop foreman, Joseph Adams. Adams had in his hands a broken file drawer, which he was taking to his shop for repair.

Adams flung the wooden drawer in Reece's path. "He took off," said Adams. "He tripped on the drawer, flew about 10 feet in the air, and fell on his side. Then he scrambled up again."

By this time Williams had pulled his pistol, a snub-nosed, .38 caliber revolver. He fired once.

The bullet hit the pavement, ricocheted and struck Reece in the calf of his right leg. But Reece kept running. He reached the sidewalk and turned right, toward Lake Merritt, then turned and hobbled up the first

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six steps of the courthouse entrance. Then he fell.

Marshall and Williams caught up with Reece as he collapsed on the steps.

Reece was taken to Highland Hospital where he was reported in satisfactory condition.

Whether Reece would be charged with attempt to escape was not known last night. But there was no shortage of charges facing Reece.

He had been taken yesterday morning to San Leandro Municipal Court for a preliminary hearing on two counts of kidnaping and one count each of robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, and assault with intent to commit murder. Reece pleaded innocent to all five counts on June 21.

The charges stemmed from an attempted robbery of a Hayward drug store June 11. The

bandit took two hostages—one a deputy sheriff—and forced them to drive him in a sheriff's car to Oakland.

Prisoner Flees From Hospital

J a m e s R e e c e, 22, Oakland baker held on a long list of charges ranging from kidnaping to armed robbery, escaped the law early today in the grand style of a modern-day Tarzan.

One minute he was in his private, second-story room in the jail ward at Highland Hospital recovering from a bullet-riddled leg suffered in an earlier escape try at the Courthouse.

A deputy sheriff sat outside the room in a chair just as in the movies.

The next minute Reece was swinging from the window on a blanket. Deputies said he either swung himself onto a tree and climbed to earth, or dropped into some bushes next to the building.

The deputy sheriff still sat outside the room.

Reece, scheduled to appear in court today, limped about five blocks in the early dawn, then apparently climbed into an apartment house through a bathroom window.

Miss Willie Sales, who lives in the apartment house at 2325 23rd Ave., woke up from the clatter in her room.

She was astonished to see a man in a blue bathrobe and a pair of white hospital sneakers talking on the telephone. The man nodded to her, then limped casually out the front door after abruptly ending the telephone call.

Miss Sales called police, and determined the burglar took \$58 from her purse.

Oakland patrolman Bill Clark heard the burglar's description, and radioed Highland Hospital to determine if anyone had escaped.

No, everything was quiet at

Continued Page 13, Col. 1

Jail Ward

Continued from Page 1

the hospital, came the reply.

The deputy sheriff on the chair, Robert E. Cross, decided to check Reece's room, just in case.

He looked. An empty bed.

Reece was last seen limping south on 23rd Ave.

Reece was hospitalized July 7 after he was shot at the Alameda County Courthouse when he tried to sprint for freedom through the courthouse tunnel. He made the escape-try while being escorted to a jail cell on the 10th floor.

He was being held on two counts of kidnaping and one count each of robbery, assault with a deadly weapon and assault to commit murder, all in connection with an aborted robbery of a Hayward drug store June 11.

It resulted in a running gunfight with a cordon of private citizens, police and sheriff's deputies.

Reece was accused of taking two hostages when the robbery attempt went sour because of a screaming clerk. He fled that time in an unmarked deputy sheriff's car he took from one of his prisoners.

The gunman later released the two men, ditched the car and escaped a dragnet of police. Fifteen shots were exchanged before he fled the Hayward area with his two hostages.

Police issued a warrant for Reece, and he surrendered two days later.

Officers today are watching his last home, in East Oakland and are questioning known friends in hopes of tracking him down.

Reece, who pried loose a security screen from the hospital window to make his escape today, was scheduled to appear this morning before Superior Court Judge William H. Brailsford for setting of a trial date on burglary and rape charges involving an attack on a University of California coed. The judge was also to rule on a petition to revoke his probation from earlier offenses.

Bed Covers Provide WE AUG 18 1966 'Rope' for Prisoner

James Reece, 22, who escaped the prison ward at Highland Hospital yesterday by climbing from his window on a blanket, is still being hunted today by police.

A bench warrant for his arrest was issued yesterday by Superior Court Judge William H. Brailsford, who was scheduled to set a trial for the fugitive on burglary and rape charges stemming from an attack on a University of California coed.

Reece is also charged with armed robbery and kidnaping

for an aborted robbery of a Hayward drug store June 11, when he allegedly took two hostages in his getaway.

Reece escaped in the dawn hours yesterday by prying a screen off the second story hospital window, then lowering himself on the blanket. A deputy sheriff was sitting outside the room but was unaware of the escape until about an hour later.

Reece had been hospitalized for a bullet wound suffered in an attempted escape a month ago from the County Courthouse. He was shot in the leg.

230
SEP 12 1966
James Reece, 22, who faces trial on a variety of felony charges — if authorities can hold on to him long enough — was arrested late yesterday as he tried to flee across the Mexican border in a stolen car.

The arrest ended slightly

more than three weeks of freedom for the Oakland baker, who escaped Aug. 17 from the jail ward at Highland Hospital by climbing from a second-story window on a blanket.

He was undergoing treatment at the hospital for a bullet wound in the leg suffered when he attempted to escape from the Alameda County Courthouse Jail July 7.

San Diego police reported they are holding Reece under maximum security.

Officers said they didn't learn who Reece was until after they booked him at San Diego for investigation of armed robbery, burglary and possession of a firearm.

They were searching for Reece as a suspect in the armed robbery of Pollard's Drug Store in San Diego. In the store, police found an owners manual for a 1965 Ford Mustang, which the druggist said the bandit had used to shield his firearm.

The book carried a stamp bearing the name of Broadway Ford in Oakland. A teletype check revealed the car had been stolen, and San Diego robbery detectives issued an all-points bulletin for it.

The car was stopped as Reece attempted to cross the border.

At Reece's motel in San Ysidro, police found an automatic pistol believed to be the one used in the drugstore robbery, a cloth bag full of change and \$100 in currency allegedly taken in a Friday night safe burglary at the Spring Valley Water Co. in San Diego.

Immediately after his arrest, Reece told San Diego officers he had left a bomb in one of the city's schools, and that it would go off if he were not released.

Although officers said they discounted the story, they conducted a search of all the schools. No bomb was found.

Reece was originally held on two counts of kidnaping and one count each of robbery, assault with a deadly weapon and assault with intent to commit murder, all in connection with a robbery attempt June 11 at a Hayward drug store.

He was arrested after a wild chase in which he took two hostages, one of them an Alameda County Sheriff's officer.

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County Sheriff's officer.

His escape from Highland was a classic. While a sheriff's deputy sat outside his room, he slithered down the blanket, limped five blocks in his hospital bathrobe and startled an apartment dweller when she woke up and found him talking on her telephone.

After he walked from the apartment, the occupant called police, who called the hospital. No, the hospital said, Reece was still in his room. But the deputy checked, just in case.

The apartment dweller, Mrs. Willie Sales, of 2325 23rd Ave., said Reece also took \$58 from her purse when he borrowed her phone.

Jail Escapee Slashes His Arm

SAN DIEGO — James Reece, 22, Alameda County escapee who was arrested last Saturday as he tried to cross the Mexican border, slashed his left arm with a broken light globe and was found bleeding and unconscious in his city jail cell here yesterday.

Doctors pronounced him fit enough to appear for arraignment in Municipal Court yesterday on charges of robbing two San Diego drug stores of more than \$1,000 last week. A preliminary hearing was set for Oct. 7.

Reece, an Oakland baker, escaped from the jail ward at Highland Hospital Aug. 17. He had been held on charges of burglary, rape, armed robbery, kidnaping, assault with a deadly weapon and assault with intent to commit murder.

IN SAN DIEGO

Bungle Frees An Eastbay Escapee

JUN 9 - 1967

James Reece, 22, wanted in the Eastbay for a variety of crimes ranging from rape and kidnaping to robbery and escape, has been accidentally set free by San Diego authorities through an apparently administrative bungle.

Oakland police learned that Reece popped up here last week, enjoying his new-found freedom, and then disappeared again.

A check with San Diego authorities showed that Reece was set free May 27 by a Superior Court judge who was not aware of a series of warrants issued here for his detainment.

When Reece appeared in the San Diego court, his records — including the warrants — had been left in a State mental hospital where he had undergone sypchiatric examination.

With no knowledge of the warrants, the judge set him free.

Reece, an Oakland baker, escaped last Aug. 17, from Highland Hospital's jail ward by climbing from a second-story window on a blanket.

He was arrested in San Diego Sept. 11 and charged with the robbery of a drug store there.

He was ordered to the Patten State Hospital and then

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Set free

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last month adjudged sane finally and able to stand trial. He is believed to have been released from court on a ruling that he was insane at the time of the crime.

Reece is being sought by Oakland police on a no-bail warrant charging him with failure to appear on charges of robbery and burglary.

Hayward Police have a no-bail warrant charging him with two counts of armed robbery, one count of kidnaping, one of rape and one of assault with a deadly weapon.

In addition there is a \$44,000 Oakland warrant charging him with the escape.

Most of the charges stem from the abortive robbery of a Hayward drug store June 11 when he allegedly took two hostages in the getaway. He was also sought for the attack on a University of California coed.

Reece surrendered to police, but then tried to escape from the Alameda County Courthouse and was shot in the leg by a deputy sheriff.

His successful escape came while he was recovering from the wound.

IN SAN DIEGO

Bungle Frees An Eastbay Tribe 6-9-67 Escapee

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Eastbay Escaper in Chase for Yvonne

JUN 1 2 1967

James Reece, 22, wanted in five cities for a dozen felonies, today was identified as the man who demolished his car in Fairfax early yesterday while pursuing San Francisco topless dancer Yvonne D'Angers driving a brand new Cadillac convertible.

Reece is in critical condition at Marin General Hospital where he is under heavy guard.

The Oakland youth became one of the state's most sought after persons when a San Diego Superior Court judge accidentally set him free on May 27.

He is wanted in Oakland on a no-bail warrant charging him with failure to appear on robbery and burglary charges and escape. Hayward police also have a no-bail warrant on him for two counts of armed robbery, one count of kidnapping, one of rape and one of assault with a deadly weapon and one for assault with intent to commit murder.

San Diego has warrants on him for robbery, burglary and possession of a firearm.

Reece first told Fairfax police his name was Artis Welder, one of the aliases he has used, and gave a fictitious San Francisco address.

On the chance that Welder might be Reece, Oakland police notified Fairfax police today. Reece refused to talk, but identification was made on the basis of a physical description provided, including a tattoo of a cross and the initial "J" on his left forearm.

When Fairfax police, unaware that they had an escape artist on their hands, were informed of his identity, they doubled the guard in the intensive care unit at Marin



JAMES REECE
Captured in Fairfax

General where Reece is reported in poor condition.

Miss D'Angers told police that Reece began following her shortly at 2:30 a.m. when she left work at the Off Broadway in her four day old red Cadillac bound for a party at the Fairfax home of her boss, Vaso Boreto.

"I kept seeing those headlights following me and it made me very nervous," she said. "The farther I drove, the fewer people were around," she said.

She said she was going up to 80 miles per hour on Bolinas Road in Marin County when Reece's car passed her and suddenly slammed on its brakes. The driver got out and waved a gun, she said. The gun, found later in the wreckage, turned out to be a water pistol.

She stomped on her brakes,

Continued Page 11, Col. 5

S.F. People's Star

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wheeled her car around on the highway, but the other car pursued, she said. She abruptly turned into a dead end street and "then there was no more road.

Her car skidded to a stop, half over the embankment of a small creek. The other car careened past her, hit a tree, and flipped 100 feet onto the opposite bank of the creek, police said.

Miss D'Angers, 22, scampered out of her car and, screaming hysterically, beat on the doors of several homes in the neighborhood before someone let her in and called police.

Reece was found in the car, a 1967 auto that was reported stolen in Oakland from William M. Clark, 1025 Mandana Blvd., on June 5.

Miss D'Angers sustained minor scratches on her leg but Reece was critically injured, police said.

Reece was arrested in San Diego Sept. 11 as he attempted to flee across the Mexican border in a stolen car. He was charged with robbery and burglary and subsequently sent to Patten State Hospital for psychiatric examination.

He was inadvertently released because court authorities then were not aware of

holds on him by other agencies.

Oakland police said he appeared here last week and then disappeared.

Most of the local felony charges against Reece result from the abortive robbery of an Ashland District drugstore a year ago in which he kidnaped two people — one of them a deputy sheriff — and escaped after a gun battle.

He later surrendered and then escaped from Highland Hospital on Aug. 17 where he was being treated for a gunshot wound in his leg he sustained when he attempted an earlier escape from Alameda County Jail.

Berkeley police also seek Reece for the alleged assault on a University of California co-ed.

Yvonne's Chaser Sent to 'Q' Hospital

JUN 13 1967

James Reece, an Oakland baker with a lengthy history of violence and escape, has been transferred to the prison hospital at San Quentin for security reasons, Fairfax police said today.

The transfer was made yesterday from Marin General Hospital where Reece, 22, was taken Sunday after he crashed his stolen car into a tree while pursuing San Francisco topless dancer Yvonne D'Angers' car on a lonely road in Fairfax.

San Quentin officials said that Reece's condition is fair.

Fairfax police said they were "taking no chances" with Reece, who is wanted in five cities for a dozen felonies and who has escaped from the Alameda County Jail and the maximum security ward at Highland Hospital.

Police said additional felony charges would be filed against Reece in Fairfax today. Reece is wanted in Oakland for robbery, burglary, escape and car theft; in Hayward for robbery, kidnapping, rape, assault with a deadly weapon and assault with intent to commit murder; in Berkeley for attempted rape and in San Diego for robbery, burglary and possession of a firearm.

Many of the local felony charges result from the abor-

tive holdup of an Ashland District drugstore a year ago in which Reece kidnaped two persons — one of them a deputy sheriff — and escaped following a fierce gun battle.

Miss D'Angers told police that Reece started following her early Saturday morning when she got off work at the Off Broadway in San Francisco — and headed for a party at the Fairfax home of her boss.

Following a high speed chase, Miss D'Angers cut into a dead end street and skidded to a stop, her four day old Cadillac half over a creek embankment. Reece careened into a tree and his car flipped 100 feet to the opposite bank.

Reece gave Fairfax police a fictitious name and address. It was only after Oakland Police Inspector Gilbert Zweigle and Alameda County Sheriff's Sgt. John Morris, acting on a hunch, provided Fairfax officers with Reece's description that his identity became known.

EX JUN 28 1967

Topless Dancer's Pursuer Indicted

Alameda County Grand Jury has indicted James Reece, 22, on 11 felony counts arising from a year's crime spree which ended when he smashed up a stolen car while pursuing topless dancer Yvonne D'Angers.

The jury rendered two true bills which embraced three counts of robbery, two of burglary, two kidnaps, two escapes and a prior conviction of robbery.

In addition, Reece, of 1127 104th Ave., is charged in Berkeley with the rape of a University of California coed. He was free on bail when police say he started to cut his swath of crime.

Pursuer of Topless

JUN 28 1967

Alameda County Grand Jury has indicted James Reece, 22, on 11 felony counts arising from a year's crime spree which ended when he smashed up a stolen car while pursuing topless dancer Yvonne D'Angers.

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lice say he started to cut his swath of crime.

The indictments start with an Alameda drugstore robbery on June 7, 1966 and end with the theft June 5, 1967 of a car of William Clark of 1025 Mandana Blvd.

Reece in Clark's car, pursued Miss D'Angers from a Broadway nightclub in San Francisco to Fairfax in Marin County June 11.

Presiding Superior Court Judge Leonard Dieden set bail for Reece at \$110,000.

Assist. Dist. Atty. Lowell Jensen said the jury also heard evidence to show that

Insanity Plea Submitted By Reece

JUL 14 1967

James Reece, 22, pleaded innocent and innocent by reason of insanity this morning on nine of 11 counts contained in a June 27 grand jury indictment.

Reece's attorney, public defender James Jenner, asked that one count of kidnaping and one count of robbery be dropped.

Superior Court Judge Lyle E. Cook appointed psychiatrists, Walter Rapaport, W. M. McGoughey, and Burton W. Adams, all of Oakland, to examine Reece and report back on July 28, when Reece is also scheduled to appear for sentencing after revocation of parole in another case.

The indictment was on three counts of robbery, two counts of burglary, two counts of kidnaping, two counts of escape, a prior robbery conviction, and one count of auto theft.

The 11 felony counts arise from a year's crime spree which ended when he smashed up a stolen car while pursuing topless dancer Yvonne D'Angers.

In addition, Reece, of 1127 104th Ave., is charged in Berkeley with the rape of a University of California coed. He was free on bail when, police said he started to cut a swath of crime.

Suspect in Long Felony List Resorts to Court Violence

AUG 23 1967

Trial of James Reece, 22, was suspended yesterday when he had to be restrained by bailiffs after a violent outburst in Alameda County Superior Court.

Reece, on trial on 11 felony counts arising from a year-long crime spree, jumped up during testimony and had to be wrestled back into his seat.

Superior Court Judge Redmond C. Staats ordered a psychiatric examination to determine whether Reece is able to stand trial.

The Oakland youth was arrested in June after he demolished a stolen car in Fairfax while pursuing San Francisco topless dancer Yvonne D'Angers. He later was indicted on three counts of robbery, two counts of burglary, two counts of kidnaping, two counts of escape, a prior robbery conviction and one count of auto theft.

He had pleaded not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity on all counts.

Hearing Finds Reece Able To Help in Felony Defense

SEP 20 1967

The criminal trial of James Reece, 22, was scheduled to resume today after a mental hearing determined that he is capable of conferring with his attorney and intelligently assisting in his defense.

Jailers said that Reece, in a fit of rage, cut his left arm with an ash tray shortly after midnight, was treated at Highland Hospital and returned to his cell. Deputies said that Reece gave no explanation for his action.

Reece, charged with 11 felony counts accumulated in a year-long burst of violent crimes, had exploded in a physical and verbal outburst

Aug. 22 when his trial first opened.

Bailiffs had to restrain him forcibly. Trial Judge Redmond C. Staats of Superior Court suspended criminal proceedings and ordered examinations by psychiatrists and a civil mental capacity hearing.

After two days of testimony by the alienists Judge Staats ruled that Reece was able to cooperate with his counsel, Assist. Public Defender Phil Evans. The order found that the defense had not produced a burden of proof that Reece was mentally incapable of standing full trial.

Reece has pleaded innocent

and innocent by reason of insanity. He was indicted for three counts of robbery, two counts of kidnapping, two counts of escape, two counts of burglary, a prior robbery conviction and a count of auto theft.

In June he allegedly stole a car in Oakland, using it to pursue topless dancer Yvonne D'Angers after she left her San Francisco night club. Miss D'Angers escaped serious injury when her car crashed in her flight at Fairfax, Marin County. Reece was injured when the car he drove smashed into a tree.

Yvonne D'Angers' Suspect on Trial

AUG 22 1966

A non-jury trial opened in Alameda County Superior Court yesterday for James Reece, 22, on 11 felony counts arising from a crime spree which ended in an auto chase of topless dancer Yvonne D'Angers.

Testimony yesterday centered on the abortive robbery of an Ashland district drugstore in June, 1966, and a shootout and two kidnaps that followed it.

Lewis Stafford, 67, of 1140 Gilbert St., identified Reece as the man who forced him into his home at gunpoint and

held him there while carrying on a gun battle with officers responding to the drugstore robbery.

He also testified that Reece forced him to go along as a hostage in a car driven at gunpoint by Deputy Sheriff James Sutton.

Reece also was identified by druggist Alton Davidson and clerk Alverta Scott as the man who attempted to rob Davidson's drugstore at the corner of Mission and Lewelling boulevards.

Service station attendant Stanley Shenkel also pointed

out Reece as the man who fired twice at him when he tried to follow after the hold-up.

Before the trial began, Superior Court Judge Redmond C. Staats denied a motion from defense attorney Philip Evans asking that criminal proceedings against Reece be suspended on the basis of insanity.

Reece was indicted in June on three counts of robbery, two counts of burglary, two counts of kidnapping, two counts of escape, a prior robbery conviction and one count

of auto theft.

In addition, he is charged in Berkeley with the rape of a University of California coed. San Diego has warrants for him for robbery, burglary and possession of a firearm.

In June, he wrecked a stolen car in Marin County while chasing Miss D'Angers.

Decision to Try Reece Due Today

SEP 21 1967

Superior Judge Redmond Staats is to decide today whether to continue the interrupted felony trial of accused kidnap-robber-escaper James Reece or postpone it again for further mental tests.

Assist. Public Defender Phil Evans at the scheduled restart of the hearing yesterday pleaded for a further delay.

Evans announced to the court that he was unable to communicate with his client who on Tuesday midnight slashed his arm with an ash-tray in his courthouse jail cell.

The defender said that the defense psychiatrist in a new examination had strengthened his conclusion that Reece is mentally incapable of standing trial. The alienist proposed that Reece be given a brainwave test and Evans moved for such permission.

Reece, who has 11 counts charged against him, sat shoeless and with his manacled hands over his face while his attorney argued to the court.

There were seven deputy sheriffs in the courtroom as a precaution. Reece, 22, on Aug. 22 when criminal trial was

first interrupted, had jumped up in a violent outburst.

Evans lost a motion to postpone the resumed trial in order to file a writ of prohibition and habeas corpus before the District Court of Appeals. He said Reece is "too violent" to talk to and the attorney believed a renewed mental hearing would determine that Reece should be committed to a mental hospital.

Over protests of Ass't. Dist. Atty. Lowell Jensen the defense also moved to withdraw its waiver of a jury trial. Staats took the motions under submission but granted a continuance until today.

Jensen insisted the trial should go on today, picking up testimony at a point where witnesses had testified that Reece, failing in a drugstore robbery, kidnaped a deputy sheriff and a Hayward area resident in making an escape through a cordon of police into Oakland.

The string of alleged crimes extended over a year and culminated in his capture in Marin County where he smashed up a stolen car while pursuing San Francisco topless dancer Yvonne D'Angers.

Kidnap Defendant Goes on Another Rampage in Court

Accused kidnap-robber James Reece staged another violent outburst today during his trial in Alameda County Superior Court.

Reece leaped to his feet and used his manacled hands to overturn a heavy counsel table. Screaming, "Let me go," he flung himself against five bailiffs who wrestled him to the floor.

Court reporter Lorraine Jarrell was so shaken by the sudden violence she fled the courtroom and was replaced by another reporter.

Reece, whose outburst occurred during the late morning testimony of Deputy Sheriff James A. Sutton, was carried back to his cell by bailiffs.

Reece's trial on 11 criminal counts resumed after Judge Redmond Staats denied all motions for further delay.

Prior to his decision, Staats directed jailer Allan Greenberg to put on the record his account of Reece's refusal to appear in court today.

Greenberg testified that the 22-year-old Reece had refused to dress for his court appearance and had to be subdued by use of a small tear gas spray gun. Reece was forcibly dressed, Greenberg said, and had to be carried into the courtroom.

Judge Staats said, "Mr. Reece is doing everything he can to impede the trial, it is quite evident." As he spoke, Reece, dressed in a white prison uniform, leaned against

the counsel table, his head forward, eyes closed.

Judge Staats said Reece was sane enough to stand trial and ordered resumption of the criminal proceedings, denying the requests for further delay sought yesterday by Assistant Public Defender Phil Evans.

Evans had cited Reece's previous violent outburst in the courtroom Aug. 22 and his self-inflicted wound with an ashtray Tuesday as justification for further hearings on Reece's mental condition.

Several times during the morning's testimony, deputies had to wipe Reece's nose as he refused to help himself. At one point he began to shake.

Deputy Sheriff C. W. Santos testified that on June 10 he approached a house at 1140 Gilbert St., Hayward, where Reece had taken refuge after an attempted drugstore hold-up and was narrowly missed by a shot fired from within the house.

Then Sutton testified to his role in that Saturday's events. He said he entered the home where Reece was holding Lewis P. Stafford, 73, as a hostage after Reece had yelled, "I want a policeman in here fast or I'll kill this man."

Sutton pointed to Reece as the gunman he had found inside the home. He said he returned outside at Reece's direction to arrange for a safe conduct through the police cordon for the gunman and his hostage. He said Reece had threatened to kill Stafford

or any policemen who tried to interfere with his escape.

It was at this point in Sutton's testimony that Reece jumped up screaming and upended the table.

Judge Staats said the trial would resume later this afternoon.

Unruly Defendant Gagged

SEP 22 1967

Alameda County Superior Court has ordered for the first time in its history the physical gagging of an obstreperous defendant standing before it on criminal charges.

Trial Judge Redmond Staats instructed the court bailiffs to place a mouth restraint on James Reece, 22, after the accused kidnaper-robber-escaper put on his third yelling demonstration of the day at testimony resumed.

Reece started his court day by using his manacled hands to upend a heavy counsel table and by throwing a shoulder block on bailiffs who carried him back to courthouse jail.

In an early afternoon reappearance for the resumption of his case, Reece hurled himself out of his chair yelling, "God . . . help me . . . kill me . . . kill me . . ." Again the reinforced sheriff's staff carried him up the prisoner stairwell, trying unsuccessfully to muffle his continued outcries.

This outburst came as Deputy Sheriff James A. Sutton started to relate the route he took from Ashland to Oakland after Reece had allegedly kidnapped him and another hostage, Lewis P. Stafford, 73, after an abortive drugstore holdup.

Moments earlier Judge Staats had refused to suspend the criminal trial and conduct another mental hearing. The

judge said that while Reece exploded in the courtroom he became placid again each time he was returned to the 10th floor jail.

The judge said that California law provides for gagging of an obstreperous defendant to retain an orderly court.

Reece was brought back before Staats chained in a wheelchair but with no gag.

Staats denied a motion of Asst. Public Defender Phil Evans that the trial be suspended and that a mental hearing be held. Deputy sheriff Sutton resumed the stand at which point Reece burst out repetitiously, "Let me go, let me go, let me go . . . ah . . . ahh . . . ahh . . ."

By prearrangement, four bailiffs rolled Reece into the prisoner anteroom, closed the door and began applying the gag. As Reece's cries became more muffled, the judge stated for the record that he had directed the bailiffs "to proceed in an orderly fashion" to apply the mouth gag.

When Reece was returned,

Evans protested the application of the gauze and adhesive mouth bandage. He declared his client was being subjected to "public indignity" and asked for a mistrial. Evans also moved for another mental hearing and appointment of a psychiatrist to prove his contention that Reece is not competent to stand trial on the 11 felony counts.

Reece thrashed in the wheelchair, groaning. The judge said, "it is so noisy the court cannot proceed," and announced he was taking the motions under submission for

resumption of a court session late today.

Loud Prisoner Gets 2nd Sanity Probe

SEP 23 1967

By HAVELOCK HUNTER. Trying him on 11 criminal charges. James Reece, 32, the most vociferous prisoner in Court-house jail history, has won a second sanity hearing in a shouting match with the judge

trying him on 11 criminal charges.

The unusual, earpiercing hearing outside of his 10th floor cell, capped a week's performance which included upending a heavy counsel ta-

ble in the courtroom and thrashing about in wrestling matches with bailiffs.

There had been three such violent demonstrations by the defendant who is accused of two escapes, two kidnaps, three robberies, two burglaries, auto theft and a prior robbery.

Yesterday's outburst was not without violence. Notified to dress himself for court, Reece started shouting and struggling. The result was he ended spread eagle on the floor outside his cell screaming, "Let me go, let me go!"

Anticipating such behavior, Judge Staats had his court attaches present to convene in the steel cubicle area.

A one-time high school and college yell leader and rally chairman, Judge Staats was unable to make himself heard to a small official audience above the din Reece created.

Yet the judge read into the record to his court reporter,

Lorraine Jarrell, on the other side of jailbars, the fact that Reece's current criminal trial was suspended a second time.

His Honor put all the formality he could into it under the circumstances, even to the point of describing the scene: "Let the record show that court is convening in the county jail, on the 10th floor, with the defendant on the floor under restraint of custodians and yelling to 'get away'...."

Reading a complicated formula including docket numbers of the 11 counts pending against Reece, Judge Staats concluded by shouting out:

"The court further notes...there is doubt as to the sanity of the defendant and the criminal proceedings are suspended!"

The judge proceeded to state in a worn, husky voice that Dr. William McGaughey and Dr. Walter Rapaport, former state medical director,

would be the court appointed alienists to examine Reece again during the weekend. They are to report to the court Monday at 4:30 p.m., "the time of the hearing," Staats called out.

When the judge explained this was "on the question of whether the defendant is sane enough to proceed" on the criminal charges, Reece dropped his outcries to a guttural sobbing. Then he was quiet.

The judge proceeded to rectify an apparent oversight made Thursday when Reece was gagged at the court direction. Staats explained that nothing was said about removing the gag in order that Reece's counsel, Assist. Public Defender Phil Evans, could communicate with him.

The judge said that he was willing, as provided under law, to have Reece ungagged for this purpose. Evans conceded that he had failed to

make such a request, to which the defendant was entitled.

Reece listened intently as Evans spoke, conceding that there was no objection to that portion of the proceedings.

The court officers then filed out, the judge shaking his head.

Before the jail court session Staats had reviewed the case in his courtroom, declaring that Reece's outbursts had disturbed other courts on the fifth floor.

He reviewed his action in ordering the resumption of the criminal trial after the two-day sanity hearing at which three psychiatrists testified. He said his evaluation of the testimony showed that Reece's behavior could be "episodic" and could be "voluntarily induced."

But he said the week's actions brought him to a new conclusion and "great doubt" if Reece was sane enough to stand trial. Therefore, he said, he was transferring the hearing upstairs for the purpose of a suspension and new psychiatric analysis.

Staats said he was doing this "because of a threat to the orderly administration of justice" and "fear of a commotion." To "protect the people it would be necessary to exclude the public," he added.

Assist. Dist. Atty. Lowell Jensen asked that in order that the jail session "not be a secret proceeding" that a press representative be present. The court designated a Tribune courthouse reporter to cover the session.

Courtroom Shouter Ruled Insane

SEP 26 1967

Superior Judge Redmond Staats has committed James Reece, 22, to Atascadero State Hospital as insane and unable to stand trial at this time for kidnap, robbery and escape.

The judge said he is warning the mental hospital staff that Reece, who went on three violent, screaming rampages last week, is one of the most "dangerous" men he has had

before him. And the judge added, "They had best take precautions."

The court made its ruling last night after a second mental hearing at which two court-appointed alienists gave conflicting testimony as to Reece's sanity.

"The court feels that because of the conduct of the defendant he is not sane enough to stand trial," Staats said. The order provides that when Reece is recovered he is to be returned here to face his criminal charges.

Reece, in leg irons, handcuffs and straps, mumbled and talked to himself during the hearing. He kept his head down and eyes closed.

Jail records showed that Reece has been under tranquilizers since his noisy hearing in jail on Friday.

Two psychiatrists who had differing opinions in earlier examinations visited him during the weekend and held to their viewpoints.

Dr. Walter Rapaport, former director of Agnews State Hospital, said Reece is not suffering from any mental illness or disease which would incapacitate him from proceeding with his trial. He reported:

"In my opinion, the bizarre, untoward mal-behavior exhibited by Mr. Reece is wilful and consciously contrived and exhibited for the purpose of avoiding conviction.

"This state of affairs can be expected to continue and to increase until he has . . . got to a mental hospital, with its added presumptive value and opportunity of a better education in how a mentally ill person should and does behave, or the character of the charges are reduced."

Assistant District Attorney Lowell Jensen in his questioning referred to Reece's "bizarre" behavior as "the Brer Rabbit Syndrome" of "don't throw me in the briar patch." This, he said, and Dr. Rapaport agreed, would be Reece's thinking if he was planning another escape — from a hospital rather than a Courthouse jail cell.

Dr. William McGaughey said that Reece had expressed fear of undergoing electric shock treatments at a hospital, as he has in the past. He quoted the prisoner as saying that "everyone in court is against me."

The alienist said Reece gave evidence of irrationality and poor judgment. He counseled the defendant that if he is "malingering" he would be delaying the inevitability of a

future trial."

Dr. McGaughey recommended further observation and evaluation in a state hospital. He declared Reece is not competent to confer with his counsel or fully understand the proceedings and "should be in a hospital."

Assistant Public Defender Phil Evans presented an affidavit to show that Reece is incapable of consulting with him on the defense.

Violent Outburst Interrupts Trial

MAY 31 1970

James Reece, 25, Alameda County's "one man crime wave" of 1967 whose courtroom antics led to his commitment to a state hospital, gave a repeat performance Friday when he was declared sane enough to stand trial for a long list of felonies.

Again his shouting outbursts were before Superior Court Judge Redmond C. Staats who sentenced Reece to state prison on revoked probation for a 1964 robbery.

Reece flew into such a fit that it took eight bailiffs to subdue him, put him in restraints and manacles and carry him back to the courthouse jail.

On Sept. 26, 1967 Judge Staats committed Reece to Atascadero State Hospital as insane and unable to stand trial for kidnap, robbery and escape.

In his court appearances Reece had overturned a counsel table, been gagged and shackled and fought deputies and jailers.

State psychiatrists recently declared him recovered sufficiently to return for trial but sent a supply of tranquilizers for his continued use.

After a local diagnosis, Judge Staats declared Reece sufficiently sane to aid in his own defense. Chief Assistant Public Defender James Hoolley was appointed to represent him.

A probation officer reported yesterday, however, that Reece felt his counsel was against him and that he had not been taking his pills.

Staats decreed that the trial on the felonies should start next Thursday, taking up where it left off in 1967.

Reece became furious, knocking aside a table and scuffling with officers in a shouting, screaming show that resulted in him being placed in solitary confinement.

Reece is under indictment for three counts of robbery, two counts of kidnaping, two counts of escape, two counts of burglary, a prior robbery conviction and a count of auto

theft.
The main string of crimes stems from an abortive Hayward area drugstore robbery, the kidnaping of a resident

and a deputy sheriff and a wild running gunfight extending into Oakland.

In June, 1967, he stole a car in Oakland, using it to pursue

topless dancer Yvonne D'Angers from San Francisco to Fairfax, Marin County, where both cars crashed in a dead-end street.

Drugged Suspect Guilty

DEC 12 1970

James Reece, 26, under heavy sedation during an unprecedented five-day trial, was convicted yesterday of nine counts of robbery, burglary, kidnap and escape stemming from a 1966 crime spree in Hayward and Oakland.

Committed to Atascadero Hospital in 1967 after violent outbursts during trial attempts, Reece was returned to Alameda County Superior Court in November after he was declared to have recovered sanity.

However, he remained under medical treatment and was given heavy doses of tranquilizers, by order of the hospital. Trial judge George W. Phillips Jr. ordered a psychiatric examination to determine if Reece could be fully tried while under such medication.

Drs. Donald T. Lumde and Bert S. Kopell of Stanford Medical School found him legally sane and capable of aid-

ing in his criminal defense. They said his continued medication is essential to maintain his mental stability just as daily insulin injections stabilize the sugar metabolism of a diabetic patient.

The medical and judicial findings allowing the conducting of the trial is believed to be a first in California law.

Reece, through his court-appointed counsel, Robert Boags, pleaded innocent and innocent by reason of insanity. His sanity trial is to start Monday before the same jury of six women and six men that convicted him.

Deputy Dist. Atty. Albert Meloling put on the evidence of the case. He is charged in connection with a robbery, an attempted holdup of a Hayward drugstore, the theft of two cars, and the kidnap of a

heart attack victim and a deputy sheriff, James A. Sutton, in bargaining with a cordon of officers for a successful escape dash to Oakland.

After his capture Reece twice escaped custody, once from Highland Hospital, after which he committed a burglary for which he was convicted. During one period of freedom he pursued the car of San Francisco nightclub entertainer Yvonne D'Angers, causing her injury in a two-car crackup in a dead-end street in Marin County.

Reece also has rape and

burglary charges pending and a prior Alameda County robbery conviction.

Convicted

B DEC 23 1970
Terrorist

Found Sane

James Reece, 26, who has stood trial for the past two and one half weeks under heavy sedation, late yesterday was found to be sane by the same jury which convicted him of a string of nine felonies in a 1966 crime spree.

The jury of six women and six men returned its verdict to Superior Court Judge George W. Phillips after three hours of deliberation.

Judge Phillips set Jan. 12 for sentence.

Reece was ordered by Phillips to stand trial after psychiatrists found him capable of participating in his defense. The doctors said that administration of tranquilizers was essential for his well-being just as insulin is necessary for diabetics.

The charges on which Reece were convicted include two counts of kidnap, three robberies, two burglaries and two escapes.

One escape was from Highland Hospital. He was recaptured after pursuing the car of San Francisco night club entertainer Yvonne D'Anger into Marin County and causing a two-car crackup in a deadend street.

Court Battle By Kidnaper In Shackles

JAN 19 1971

James Reece, 26, convicted terrorist, kidnaper and robber, despite heavy shackles struggled with eight bailiffs before toppling unconscious in an Oakland courtroom yesterday.

He was about to be sentenced to a life-term in state prison.

Reece, under heavy sedation, had appeared before Alameda County Superior Court Judge George W. Phillips Jr. for formal sentencing.

He was convicted three weeks ago on two counts of kidnap, three robberies, two burglaries and two escapes. These date from a 1966 crime spree.

Yesterday his feet were shackled and he was handcuffed as he sat at his attorney's table in court. As the court clerk prepared to read the formal language of the conviction, the 230-pound

Reece hunched his shoulders suddenly to knock aside the bailiff standing behind his chair.

When another bailiff tried to put Reece back into his chair, the prisoner bulled the bailiff aside with his shoulders, flinging the bailiff through the air.

Eight bailiffs then bore him to the floor and one stood on his leg shackles to prevent his kicking.

He lost consciousness and Dr. Walter Morris, the county jail physician, was summoned.

Dr. Morris said sentencing could not be continued, and an ambulance was summoned.

Judge Phillips canceled the sentencing and announced he was appointing Dr. Donald Lunde, a psychiatrist at the Stanford Medical School, to perform an examination in Highland Hospital psychiatric clinic to determine if Reece can understand the sentencing procedure if it is renewed next Monday.

Screaming Terrorist Given Life

JAN 21 1971
Screaming and struggling against heavy shackles, James Reece, 26, was sentenced in a hospital courtroom today to life imprisonment for a 1966 crime spree.

The sentencing by Superior Court Judge George W. Phillips Jr. was the climax to a series of courtroom appearances by the convicted terrorist, kidnaper and robber during which he has wrestled bailiffs, overturned tables, and once even lapsed into unconsciousness during an emotional tantrum.

He was convicted three weeks ago on two counts of kidnap, three robberies, two burglaries and two escapes. These date from a 1966 crime spree which started in Hayward.

The 230-pound Reece was taken to Highland Hospital Monday following another outburst in the courthouse when he appeared before Judge Phillips for sentencing. Eight bailiffs were required to restrain him. Since that time a court-appointed psychiatrist determined Reece was capable of understanding the sentencing procedure.

'One-Man Crime Wave'

Death Spree Arrest

SEP 17 1975

By JEFF MORGAN

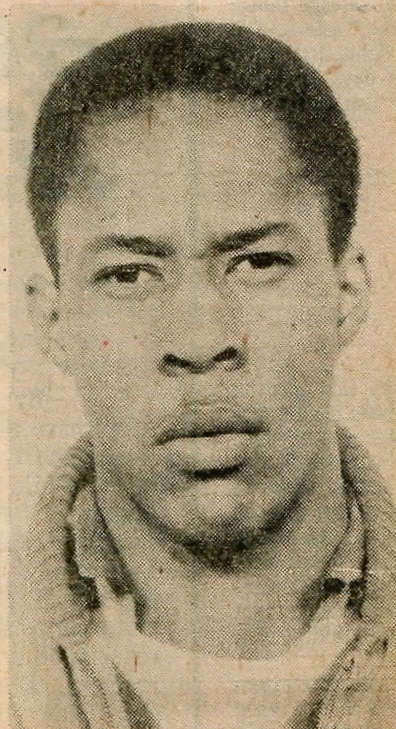
James Reece, once described as Alameda County's "one-man crime wave," and who was paroled from a life prison sentence last July, is in a Davis hospital today following a shootout with police that authorities say ended a three-county rape and murder spree.

Reece, 32, who now lives in Sacramento County, was reported in critical condition with nine pistol and shotgun wounds.

State, county and local law enforcement agencies say he is suspected of the rape-murder of a 21-year-old San Lorenzo woman Monday night, and that he raped and shot another woman in Woodland yesterday.

The gunfight with officers from the highway patrol, Davis police and police from the University of California at Davis happened after he was found on a rural road with the dead woman's stolen car.

The automobile was spotted at a farmhouse two miles south of Woodland. The farmer later said Reece had asked if he could borrow a jack.



JAMES REECE
Wounded in shootout

Officers from the three jurisdictions converged on the farm and chased Reece around a barn. They said he began firing at them with a .357 magnum revolver and screaming that he would take several policemen with him.

Reece was sentenced to life in prison in 1971 in Oakland for two counts of kidnaping, three robberies, two burglaries and two escapes.

He was paroled from the California Medical Facility at Vacaville last July 29 and had been living in the Davis area.

The woman who was kidnaped and later murdered Monday night was Debra Ann Rebieto, 21, a student at Chabot college who worked at the Alameda County Recorder's Office in Oakland.

She was found, raped and shot five times, in a drainage ditch near Vacaville in Solano County yesterday by a farm worker who saw blood on a nearby roadway and followed the trail thinking it might have been left by an injured animal.

Solano County sheriff's investigators

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Coed Slain

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say the sexual assault apparently occurred after she had been killed.

According to Yolo County authorities, Reece walked into a Woodland wig shop shortly before 2 p.m. yesterday, dragged a woman clerk into a back room at gunpoint and tried to rape her. He shot her in the neck and fled in a car that later turned out to be Miss Rebieto's Datsun. The rape and shooting victim was reported in stable condition at Woodland Hospital.

The spree of violence began Monday night, shortly after Reece was stopped by a highway patrolman southbound on the MacArthur Freeway near 98th Avenue in Oakland. He was cited for speeding and driving without a license in his possession. Later, authorities learned that the 1964 Ford he was driving was registered to a towing company. Police were searching for it today.

Miss Rebieto, who lived with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Rebieto, at 15823 Via Cordoba in San Lorenzo, left home Monday night with her brother, Wayne, 25, to attend night classes at Chabot College in Hayward.

Her parents said the two took separate cars because Miss Rebieto's class was scheduled to be dismissed an hour earlier than her brother's, and that she didn't want to wait for him.

College officials said she left her Spanish class when it was dismissed at 9:15 p.m. When her brother, whose class let out at 9:30, half an hour early, went to the parking lot, her car was gone.

When she failed to return home, the family became worried, and after telephoning several friends, they reported her missing early yesterday morning.

The brother went to Solano County last night and identified the body after Alameda County sheriff's deputies learned of the murder there.

A former San Lorenzo High School song girl who graduated in 1972, Miss Rebieto went to work for Alameda County in the office at Juvenile Hall three years ago. Last year she transferred to the recorder's office, where co-workers described her as a "steady, reliable worker."

Reece, whose police record for violent crime stretches back to when he was 14,

was convicted of a series of crimes in 1966 that ended in his capture in Marin County, where he smashed up a stolen car while chasing former topless dancer Yvonne D'Angers.

At that time he was free on bail on a charge of raping a University of California coed in Berkeley and was on probation for a 1964 robbery.

His violent conduct in court in 1967 led to his commitment to Atascadero State Hospital, where he remained until finally coming to trial in 1970. During the trial he was so violent that he had to be sedated during the proceedings.

He was sentenced to life in prison Jan. 21, 1971, as he screamed and struggled against heavy shackles. The sentencing by Alameda County Superior Court Judge George W. Phillips Jr. climaxed a series of courtroom appearances during which Reece wrestled with bailiffs, overturned tables and once even lapsed into unconsciousness during an emotional tantrum.

In an interview following the sentencing, Judge Phillips said Reece was a "known psychotic" who had been under police or court supervision for a dozen years. He said the chances of his ever becoming a productive citizen were exceedingly remote, and sentenced him to the maximum term prescribed by law.

Last July — four and a half years later — Reece was paroled to Sacramento County, where, the State Department of Corrections said today, he found a job.

Police Trace Con's Trail of Violence

SEP 18 1975

By JEFF MORGAN

A 32-year-old ex-convict who allegedly rampaged across Northern California on a rape and murder spree Monday and Tuesday was reported in stable condition today in a Davis hospital, as investigators in three counties tried to track back the trail of violence that began in the Eastbay.

James Reece, sentenced to prison for life from Oakland in 1971, but who was paroled a little over six weeks ago, was

shot nine times by officers near Woodland Tuesday before he finally dropped the gun he was firing at them.

He is suspected of kidnaping, raping and murdering 21-year-old Debra Rebiejo, who was abducted with her car from a parking lot near Chabot College after she left a night class Monday. Her body was found with five bullet holes in it early Tuesday near Vacaville in Solano County.

Authorities in Yolo County say he also tried to rape and then shot and critically wounded a Woodland store clerk Tuesday afternoon, shortly before he was cornered on a nearby farm and shot it out with police and highway patrolmen.

He was driving Miss Rebiejo's stolen car at the time of his capture.

Oakland police also were investigating Reece as a possible suspect in the murder early Saturday of Shawn Davies Perry, 27, a Jack London Square nightclub entertainer who was found shot to death in her home near the Montclair Golf Course.

Alameda County sheriff's deputies continued to piece together the puzzle of Reece's movements before Miss Rebiejo

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Murder Spree Trail

Continued from Page 1

was kidnaped in Hayward about 9:15 p.m. Monday.

Three-quarters of an hour earlier

Reece had been stopped by a highway patrol officer for speeding southbound on the MacArthur Freeway near 98th Avenue in Oakland. Also cited for driving

without a license in his possession, he gave his correct Davis address before he was released by the patrolman.

Yesterday, it was learned the car Reece was driving at the time he was cited had been loaned to him by Don Epps, the operator of an auto body and towing shop at 855 San Leandro Blvd., San Leandro.

Epps said Reece had been involved in an accident Sept. 8 in Alameda which caused \$1,700 worth of damage to a 1972 Chevrolet Vega he said was owned by his girl friend, whom he identified as Brenda J. Davis of a Hayward address.

The loaner car was found yesterday parked in front of the house where Reece said his girl friend lived. It was about two miles from the Chabot campus. Sheriff's officers searched the house and removed several pieces of evidence, but would not say what they were. A Tribune reporter saw one investigator remove a number of itemized telephone bills.

Epps told The Tribune Reece called his shop Monday to inquire about the progress on repairing the wrecked car, but was told the job was not finished.

Alameda County Sheriff's Lt. Donald Madsen and Sgt. Bernie Cervi, investigating the kidnaping of Miss Rebiejo and the theft of her car, did not say whether they had located the girl friend.

Miss Rebiejo's body was discovered shortly after dawn Tuesday by a farm worker in a drainage ditch on a rural paved road near Vacaville. Later, a truck driver told the Solano County sheriff's office he saw a man driving Miss Rebiejo's car dash away from the murder scene about 1 a.m. Tuesday at high speed.

A search of Reece's apartment in Davis, where he had been living since his parole July 29, turned up a pair of shoes that detectives said matched footprints found near where Miss Rebiejo's body was found. A school notebook they believe may have belonged to her also was in the apartment.

Charles Van Court, Yolo County assistant district attorney, said that after Reece recovers he will be turned over to Solano County for prosecution in the murder of Miss Rebiejo, who investigators say was killed where she was found.

He also faces possible charges of attempted rape, attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon on police officers in Yolo County, as well as possible kidnaping and car theft charges in Alameda County.

Reece was sentenced to life in prison for a string of nine felonies that started with the holdup of a Hayward area pharmacy in 1966. At the time he was free on bail on a charge of raping a University of California coed in Berkeley and was on probation for a 1964 robbery.

Following his arrest in a wild chase and gunfight during which he took two hostages, Reece was shot in the leg as he tried to escape from the courthouse jail in Oakland. A month later he managed to escape from Highland Hospital where he was recuperating under guard from the leg wound.

A month after that he was nabbed as he tried to cross the border into Mexico at Tijuana. He was charged with robbing two San Diego drug stores of more than \$1,000, but because of his violent and sometimes irrational conduct, he was ordered to Patten State Hospital where he was held until May of 1967, then adjudged sane to stand trial in San Diego.

A judge found that Reece had been legally insane at the time of the San Diego holdups and, unaware of the pending Alameda County charges against him, freed him from custody. That administrative bobble left Reece the most wanted man in California.

Two weeks later he was finally arrested when he wrecked a stolen car as he chased a topless dancer he had followed from a San Francisco nightclub to Marin County.

His trial in Alameda County, interrupted several times because of his violent outbursts in court, was delayed until late 1970 while he underwent psychiatric examination at Atascadero State Hospital. He was determined to be sane.

By the time he was sentenced Jan. 21, 1971, he had been convicted of two counts of kidnaping, three robberies, two burglaries and two escapes.

State parole officials said yesterday that Reece had been a chaplain's assistant in prison, and that he had told neighbors in Davis he was trying to establish a prison reform program and halfway house for ex-convicts.

The parole officers said they were "stunned" by the news of Tuesday's shootout and arrest.

Slain Coed's Family Asks Why

OCT 15 1975

SAN LORENZO — The anguished parents of a Chabot College coed who was kidnaped and murdered last month are petitioning state legislators for an immediate investigation of the state prison and parole system.

The Anthony Rebeijos have collected 4,000 names in Southern Alameda County in support of their demands for a full inquiry into the violent death of their daughter, Debra Ann, 21.

An ex-convict with a long history of violent crimes, James Reece, has been charged with her slaying. He was paroled last July from the California Medical Facility at Vacaville on the recommendation of the state Adult Authority.

"James Reece was a man who had demonstrated to authorities a long history of violent crimes and bizarre behavior patterns," Rebiejo said.

"He was serving a five-years-to-life sentence in the California Medical Facility at Vacaville. His violent tendencies were so well-known that, when sentenced, the judge recommended he not be given parole."

The Rebeijos are asking why his parole was granted.

"What did James Reece do to demonstrate to the Adult Authority and parole board that he had so changed his behavior patterns as to be rewarded with parole after only three-and-one-half years?" Rebiejo asks.

Rebiejo also asks why authorities had "such low regard for the safety of the public when they paroled a man of such well-documented violent tendencies."

And the family is posing yet another question to state officials. "What is really happening in our prisons?" Are they merely "warehouses" for men and women?

Rebiejo feels that his daughter's death is not merely an isolated instance, but "is symptomatic of the callous disregard for the well-being of our society."

Rebiejo has printed 3,500 copies of a petition, being circulated throughout Southern Alameda County, that supports his demands for a full investigation of parole

board policies and the agency's obligations to society. His goal is more than 20,000 signatures.

Reece, a 32-year-old ex-convict allegedly went on a rampage across Northern California last month after abducting Rebiejo's daughter as she was leaving classes at Chabot College in Hayward. Her body was found in Solano County Sept. 16 with five bullet holes in it.

Authorities later cornered Reece in Yolo County after he wounded a store clerk. Reece, with the missing coed's stolen auto in his possession, was shot nine times by a posse of police, sheriff's deputies and highway patrolmen during a gunfight.

In 1966 Reece was sentenced

to life in prison following his conviction on a string of felonies which began with a pharmacy holdup near Hayward. He took several hostages, including a deputy sheriff, in that holdup.

He later escaped from the Alameda County Courthouse Jail and was shot in the leg as he attempted to flee. A short time later he managed to escape from Highland Hospital.

He was captured as he attempted to flee to Mexico following two San Diego drug-store robberies.

He disrupted his trial several times with violent outbursts. He was finally convicted on robbery and kidnaping charges and sentenced to prison Jan. 21, 1971.

Murder Spree Suspect

Death Penalty Possible

SEP 27 1975

James Reece, a 32-year-old state prison parolee who allegedly rampaged across four counties on a rape and murder spree Sept. 15 and 16, has been charged in Vacaville Municipal Court in a criminal complaint that could result in the death penalty.

Earlier, Assemblyman Bill Lockyer, D-San Leandro, called on state Atty. Gen. Evelle Younger to launch a special investigation into the circumstances surrounding the brutal murder of Debra

Rebiejo, a 21-year-old San Lorenzo woman abducted from a parking lot near Chabot College in Hayward.

Reece, who was paroled from state prison last July in spite of his conviction on nine violent felonies, is charged with the murder and rape of Miss Rebiejo, who was found shot to death Sept. 16 alongside an isolated rural road in Solano County. He was captured the same afternoon following a shootout with lawmen from three jurisdictions near Woodland in Yolo County. He was driving the dead woman's car at the time.

According to Solano County Dep. Dist. Atty. Michael Nail, Reece, who is recovering from nine gunshot wounds at the California Medical Facility at Vacaville, is charged with

murder with special circumstances.

Under the present state law, anyone convicted of murder during a forcible rape or of murdering a witness to a felony to prevent their testimony can receive the death penalty. Reece is charged with both circumstances, and with forcible rape.

Reece, who also is under investigation for the fatal shooting of an Oakland woman a few days earlier, allegedly tried to rape a Woodland store clerk and shot her in the neck shortly before he was captured. In addition to the possible charges against him in Yolo County, he may be charged with kidnaping Miss Rebiejo and stealing her car in Alameda County.

He was sentenced to prison

for life in Oakland in 1971, following his conviction on nine felony counts, including kidnaping, robbery, burglary and jail escape.

In a letter to Younger, Lockyer said, "The tragic and brutal murder of (Miss Rebiejo) raises some serious questions about the effectiveness of our penal and judicial system.

"...Why is someone who has apparently demonstrated a serious lack of social stability and a penchant for crime and terror allowed to roam free on our streets and in our communities?

"In addition, how can we defend our penal system or rehabilitation programs when there appears to be a serious rate of recidivism in criminal behavior?

"A special investigation may find some answers as to why this terrible thing happened to Debbie Rebiejo," Lockyer said.

Louder Roar Yet for Parole Probe

NOV - 6 1975

The Alameda County supervisors are demanding a top state investigation of the parole of life-terminer James Reece, accused of the kidnap, rape and murder of Debra Rebiejo, 21, of San Lorenzo. She was a county employee.

Reece, once described as a one-man crime wave, was paroled from state prison last July 29. Six weeks later he allegedly rampaged across Northern California on a rape and murder spree.

Rebiejo was abducted in her own car from a parking lot near Chabot College after leaving a night class. Her body was found the next day, Sept. 16, near Vacaville in Solano County. She had been shot five times.

Reece was critically wounded in a shootout with police at a farmhouse near Woodland. He is recovering from the wounds in the California Medical Facility at Vacaville.

The resolution was adopted

by the board Tuesday at the request of Supervisor Charles Santana, who represents the San Lorenzo area. It notes that Reece was convicted (in Alameda County) on two counts of kidnap, three of robbery, two of burglary, and two counts of escape and was sentenced on Jan. 21, 1971, to a period of five years to life in prison.

The resolution concludes with a request for "an immediate and thorough investiga-

tion of the circumstances leading to the early release of said James Reece be conducted forthwith by the appropriate authorities lest a repetition of the calamitous events detailed herein be allowed to occur either in the County of Alameda or elsewhere in the State of California."

The resolution will join those of other groups in a concerted Eastbay effort to determine the circumstances of Reece's release. Several

thousand persons have signed petitions in the south county area on behalf of the Rebiejo family. One of those, Lucille Krehemker of Hayward, told the supervisors:

"I've been working with the Rebiejo family for several weeks. This was a pointless murder and it goes on and on. I've made up my mind to keep walking for signatures on behalf of the Rebiejos."

Supervisor Tom Bates abstained from voting for the

resolution, saying the parole of Reece was "within the discretion" of the California Adult Authority, adding, "This kind of resolution just makes people more reactionary."

Supervisor Joseph Bort said he had supported programs "to keep people out of jail" but he declared, "This resolution suggests there should be some limit, that those in charge of such matters must temper their judgment."

Victim's Family Sees Governor

MAR 20 1976

REBEJO

Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. personally met with the ~~Rebeijo~~ family of San Lorenzo, who went to Sacramento yesterday to deliver petitions regarding the violent death of their daughter allegedly at the hands of a state prison parolee.

Meanwhile, James Reece — sentenced to prison for life in 1971 and paroled a little over six weeks before he allegedly kidnaped, raped and murdered Chabot College student Debra ~~Rebeijo~~, 21 — is scheduled to go on trial Tuesday in Solano County Superior Court in Fairfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony ~~Rebeijo~~, their son and several uncles and cousins, met with the governor, and also talked with Adult Authority member Raymond Procunier, former Department of Corrections director under Gov. Reagan, and Marc Poche, director of programs and policy for Gov. Brown.

Mr. Poche said the rare audience was granted because Gov. Brown is sympathetic and because the governor felt the ~~Rebeijo~~ family "obviously had been subjected to a great deal of tragedy."

The case has drawn widespread interest. Following Reece's capture two days after the kidnaping, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, Assemblyman Bill Lockyer, D-San Leandro, and the victim's parents asked the state to investigate the paroling of Reece.

The ~~Rebeijos~~ had obtained thousands of names on petitions supporting their demands for a full state inquiry into the violent death of their daughter.

Mr. Poche said he and Mr. Procunier explained to the ~~Rebeijos~~ how the law and the adult authority work and assured them that the governor's office is working on ways to alleviate existing problems.

Specifically, Mr. Poche said, the governor's office is supporting a bill by Sen. John Nejedly, R-Walnut Creek, that would end the existing indeterminate sentence system and have judges hand

out flat sentences, such as 10 years rather than 5 to 15.

Mr. Poche also said the governor was in favor of legislation by Assemblyman Julian Dixon, D-Los Angeles.

The Dixon bill would require that juvenile courts take into consideration the protection of the public and would also give the district attorney legal standing in juvenile court. The proposed bill would in addition permit the district attorney to file charges in adult court against 16- or 17-year-olds with prior records who are accused of serious crimes and crimes involving violence.

Reece, 32, an ex-convict with a long history of violent crimes, had been paroled last July from the California Medical Facility at Vacaville on the recommendation of the Adult Authority.

He was serving a five years to life sentence for a conviction on nine felony counts, which began with a pharmacy holdup near Hayward in 1966 where several hostages were taken.

He later escaped from the Alameda County Courthouse but was shot in the

leg as he attempted to flee. He did manage to escape from Highland Hospital a short time later. However, Reece was captured while attempting to cross the border into Mexico following two San Diego drugstore robberies.

He had been residing in Davis at the time of Miss ~~Rebeijo~~'s murder. Her body, shot five times, was found last Sept. 16 in a drainage ditch near Vacaville. Two days later Reece was captured after being critically wounded in a shootout with law enforcement officers on a rural road near Woodland.

The trial stemming from the rape and murder of Miss ~~Rebeijo~~ will be presided over by Solano County Superior Court Judge Ellis R. Randall.

Reece may also face charges in Yolo County for allegedly trying to rape a Woodland store clerk and shooting her in the neck shortly before he was captured. In addition, he may be charged in Alameda County with the kidnaping of Miss ~~Rebeijo~~ and stealing her car.

She was accosted while attending a night class at Chabot College.

Another Parolee Violence Probe

JAN 14 1976

For the second time within two months, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors is questioning the release of a prisoner accused of committing a second violent crime shortly after his release.

"I'm getting a lot of questions from people in my area," said Supervisor Charles Santana of Hayward. "People want to know why this guy was placed in our Senior Boys Camp along with other juveniles and why he was released after only 10 months. I think I owe them an answer."

County Administrator Loren Enoch said he would get a report for the board. The case involves James Steven Greely, 18, who admitted taking part in the murder rape of Esther Lough, 84, in Oakland on Aug. 7, 1974. Greely subsequently was sent to the county's Senior Boys Camp in San Leandro.

He was released last Aug. 15 and is now accused of an attack a week ago on Rosa Ortiz, 85, who lives less than a block from the home of Mrs. Lough. She was hospitalized with severe head and leg wounds. Greely was arrested at the scene and charged with attempted murder, robbery and burglary.

Two months ago the supervisors demanded the state investigate the parole of life-terminer James Reece who, six weeks after his release from state prison, was accused of the kidnap, rape and murder of Debra Rebiejo, 21, of San Lorenzo, a county employe.

EX-CON'S

MAR 27 1976

Murder

Trial On

Special to The Tribune

FAIRFIELD—A Solano County prosecutor yesterday laid out the trail of circumstantial evidence he will present against ex-convict James Reece, accused of the rape-kidnap-murder of a young San Lorenzo woman.

Reece, who has a history of violence, was paroled from Vacaville six months before the bullet-riddled body of Debra Ann Rebiejo, 21, was found last Sept. 16 in a muddy culvert near Elmira.

Her parents, Mary and Anthony Rebiejo, who led an area-wide petition against state Adult Authority parole policies and who met with Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. last week, were not in court during the opening statement by Solano County Dist. Atty. Neal McCaslin.

Mr. McCaslin first recounted to the jury of eight men and four women how Miss Rebiejo was reported missing Sept. 15 when she failed to return home from a night Spanish class at Chabot College, Hayward. The following morning she was found, raped and shot five times, he said.

While Mr. McCaslin outlined his case to the jurors, Reece, uncuffed and dressed in prison denims, sat quietly at the defense table glancing through the transcript of his preliminary hearing.

Miss Rebiejo's car, Mr. Caslin continued, was found at a farmhouse where Reece was wounded in a gunbattle with police hours after the body was found.

An important part of the evidence, said Mr. McCaslin, will be plaster casts of boot prints found at the murder scene. The casts, he added, match a pair of boots found in Reece's apartment where police also found some blood-stained clothing and a yellow tablet, similar to one given Miss Rebiejo by her brother.

Fragments of bullets found in the body, he continued, are similar to ammunition for the weapon Reece was captured with. That type of handgun ammunition was also found in a Hayward home where Reece stayed frequently and in his car, found outside the home.

Mr. McCaslin said he will also present witnesses who will place Reece in the college parking lot near where Miss Rebiejo parked her car the night she disappeared.

The trial before Superior Court Judge Ellis R. Randall continues Monday.

Slaying Suspect's First Trial Smile

MAR 31 1976

Special to The Tribune
FAIRFIELD—James Reece, accused of the kidnap-rape-murder of Debra Ann Rebieto of San Lorenzo, allowed himself a smile during his trial yesterday.

Reece, 32, who has sat impassively during four days of jury selection and three days of testimony, smiled, nodded his head and waved at Brian Roth, at whose Hayward home he was often a guest.

Mr. Roth, a hedging and apparently unwilling witness called by Solano County District Attorney Neal McCaslin, testified he befriended Reece about two months before the Sept. 15 disappearance of Miss Rebieto. He gave Reece a key to the house, he said.

According to Mr. McCaslin's opening statement, Reece kidnaped Miss Rebieto, 21, at the Chabot College, Hayward, parking lot after she left a night Spanish class. Reece then forced her, in her car, to drive to the Hayward house and raped her, said the district attorney.

Mr. Roth, who works nights

for a San Francisco airline, said Reece telephoned that day to say he would visit. But he never showed up, Mr. Roth testified.

As Mr. Roth stepped from the witness stand and walked out of the courtroom, Reece turned, grinned and waved.

Mr. McCaslin continued to knit the web of circumstantial evidence he hopes will convict Reece, who was paroled from state prison six months before the slaying after serving 4½ years of a life sentence.

A California Highway Patrolman testified that about two hours before Miss Rebieto disappeared, he cited Reece for speeding on Interstate 580 near 98th Avenue. Reece was also cited, testified Patrolman John Sloulin, for not having a drivers license in his possession.

For identification, Mr. Sloulin said, Reece showed him a speeding citation issued the previous day near Davis.

It was at Reece's Davis apartment that investigators found a yellow notebook, given to Miss Rebieto by her

brother, Wayne, 27, who also took the witness stand.

Mr. Rebieto said the day after she disappeared, he drove by himself to the Hayward Hills to search for his sister.

And while he looked, her bullet-riddled body was discovered in a roadside ditch between Vacaville and Elmira. Her blood-stained sweater and shoes, found neatly folded near the body, were introduced into evidence by Mr. McCaslin.

Reece was captured the same day after a gun battle with police at a farm near Woodland. He was wanted for raping and wounding a young woman store clerk two hours before.

Bullets for a .357 magnum pistol, similar to the ones used to kill Miss Rebieto, were found at the Hayward house by detectives. A weapon of that caliber was found on Reece when he was wounded and captured in the farmyard.

Cabbie's Damaging Testimony

APR - 1 1976

Special to The Tribune

FAIRFIELD—A Hayward taxi driver gave damaging testimony yesterday in the trial of James Reece, charged with the kidnap-rape and murder of Debra Ann Rebiejo, who disappeared from Chabot College last Sept. 15.

Richard E. Taylor testified he picked up Reece at a Hayward home four hours after the student's disappearance, seeing a car answering the description of that driven by Miss Rebiejo parked in the driveway of the home, then drove Reece to another car parked near the college on Depot Road.

At the request of District Attorney Neal P. McCaslin, Mr. Taylor produced a waybill showing he had picked up a passenger at 1:15 a.m. Sept. 16 at 27668 Laporte Ave. and delivered him to his destination at 1:20 a.m.

Taylor told how he was dispatched by radio to the house and "was going to swing into the driveway but couldn't because there was a little, light tan automobile parked there."

Miss Rebiejo, 21, was driving such a tan auto when she was attending an evening class on the night of her disappearance, according to previous testimony. Her bullet-riddled body was discovered in a roadside ditch near Elmira in Solano County the following day.

The cab driver said Reece, whom he identified at the defense table, told him he wanted to go to Chabot College. Mr. Taylor said he replied, "Wow, school is starting kinda early this morning."

Reece, said Mr. Taylor, told him that his wife had attended class that night, that her car would not start and that he was going back for it.

Mr. Taylor testified he took Reece past the college parking lot after Reece told him it was not there but on Depot Road. He recalled Reece paid the \$2.40 cab charge with a five-dollar bill and told him to keep the change. He said he waited to see if Reece's car would start and it did so with no trouble.

Brian Roth, a friend of Reece, said on the stand Tuesday he had given Reece a key to his home at the Laporte address. Mr. Roth testified when he got home from his graveyard shift the morning of Sept. 16, he found Reece's car parked in front of the house.

Special to The Tribune

FAIRFIELD—A young Woodland mother told yesterday how she was raped, forced to engage in various sex acts and shot by a man she said answered the description of James Reece.

Reece, 32, is on trial for the kidnap, rape and murder of Debra Ann Rebiejo, a Chabot College student, last Sept. 15. He is accused of kidnaping her from the Hayward campus, raping her and shooting her five times. Her body was found in a ditch near Elmira the next day.

The attack described by the Woodland witness took place the same day.

The 26-year-old woman told how the man entered the shop, looked around for a while, then lifted his shirt to expose a gun in his waistband.

He forced her at gunpoint to the back of the store and asked her about money.

After telling him there was only small change in the till, she said:

"I told him, 'I'll write you a check, anything, just don't shoot me,' then he asked my name."

She said he told her to take off her clothes and slapped her twice when she did not move fast enough.

She said he forced her to engage in unnatural sex acts and raped her.

While she was lying on the floor face down, she said, her assailant tossed two towels on her, then "he shot me."

The bullet pierced her neck.

As he ran from the shop, she leaped to her feet and went through a connecting door into the showroom of Central Motors where she was helped by Chalmers R. Young of the auto agency, she testified.

Mr. Young testified he saw a man resembling the description of the attacker hurrying to a nearby parking lot. He said the stranger left in a small foreign car, similar to the one owned by Miss Rebiejo.

Wilson J. Clark, who lives outside Woodland, told how a man he identified as Reece drove up to his house and asked to borrow a jack to change a tire.

The California Highway Patrol, Yolo County sheriff's patrol units and Woodland and Davis police cars converged and Mr. Clark said he found himself in the middle of a gun battle.

Asked by District Attorney Neal McCaslin "Did you hear shots fired?" the elderly man replied, "Boy! Did I!"

Purse Enters APR - 4 1976 Reece Trial

Special to The Tribune

FAIRFIELD—The purse carried by Debra Ann Rebiejo the night she disappeared from Chabot College was found in the trunk of her car at the scene of the shootout that resulted in the capture of James Reece, according to testimony at his trial here.

Reece, 32, is charged with the girl's kidnap, rape and murder. Her body was found in a ditch near Elmira early Sept. 16, the day after her disappearance.

Deputy Clinton L. Ring of the Yolo County Sheriff's office in Woodland said he examined the trunk of the car the day after the Sept. 16 gun battle and found the purse and contents which included Miss Rebiejo's drivers' license and credit cards.

Items introduced into evidence on Friday by District Attorney Neal McCaslin included a tire jack, a bottle of tequilla, a flat tire and a bent rim.

Reece allegedly was driving Miss Rebiejo's auto when he drove into a Woodland farmyard to change the tire. According to previous testimony, a gun battle between Reece, the California Highway Patrol and Yolo County sheriff's deputies ensued.

Another prosecution witness, Mrs. Claire McDermott, a surgical nurse at Davis Community Hospital where Reece was taken after the shootout, described the surgi-

cal efforts to save his life. She said she saw large pieces of lead removed from numerous areas of Reece's body during his four hours on the operating table.

Mrs. McDermott said many of the wounds were in his back and sides and that Reece was given seven units of whole blood and four units of plasma during the surgery, in addition to seven quarts of saline solution with glucose.

Officers previously had testified that during the foot chase through an alfalfa field Reece doubled back to the Rebiejo car, reached into the auto, drew out a pistol and started shooting at them.

Reece is being tried before Solano County Superior Court Judge Ellis R. Randall. The jury trial resumes tomorrow.

Rebiejo Case

Alleged Death Gun Examined

APR - 6 1976

Special to The Tribune

FAIRFIELD — The gun James Reece allegedly used to kill Debra Ann Rebiejo, 21, after her abduction from Chabot College campus in Hayward was the focal point of the prosecution yesterday in superior court here.

Reece, who was arrested after a gun battle near Woodland, is charged with kidnapping, rape and murder in the San Lorenzo coed's death. She disappeared from the Hayward campus Sept. 15 and her body was found in a Solano County ditch the following morning.

Robert Ouye, a Marina city councilman and Monterey County deputy sheriff, testified the .357 Magnum handgun found on Reece belonged to him, but was stolen from his home in 1973.

The Marina councilman said the gun had a full-length barrel when it was taken from his home.

Ronald Gagnon, a Treasury agent and expert witness for the prosecution, said the bar-

rel of the .357 Magnum taken from Reece had been cut down and threads were machined into the remaining end.

He testified the only reason to do this to a gun would be to affix a silencer—which he said could reduce the sound of this particular weapon by "60 to 70 per cent."

Solano County Sheriff's Sgt. George Matlock, chief investigator in the case, testified he found a yellow, lined notebook in Reece's Davis apartment on Sept. 1. Wayne Rebiejo, 27, of San Lorenzo, the dead girl's brother, previously identified the tablet as one he had given her the night she disappeared.

Sgt. Matlock said he found a pair of blue jeans on the bed in Reece's apartment with what appeared to be blood stains on the trouser leg and two shirts, one of which also appeared to have blood flecks on it. Lab test results will be presented later.

Rebiejo Data Examined

APR - 7 1976

Special to The Tribune

FAIRFIELD—James Banks, criminalist for the California Department of Justice at the time San Lorenzo coed Debra Ann Rebiejo disappeared from the Chabot College campus last September, took the stand yesterday in the trial of James Reece, charged with her kidnap, rape and murder.

Mr. Banks testified that while confirming the autopsy surgeon's report that Miss Rebiejo, 21, and Reece, 32, had shared the same blood type, he was able to further refine blood specimens showing differences. This did not assist in identification of blood stains found on Reece's clothing as that of the coed, however, because "there was not a sufficient quantity of blood on the clothing for typing," Mr. Banks said.

The clothing was seized by Solano County Sheriff Sgt. George Matlock, chief investigator in the case, in a search of Reece's Davis apartment the day after Reece was captured in a gun battle near Woodland.

Reece became the object of a multi-agency pursuit by law officers within minutes of the rape and shooting of a Woodland wig store clerk on Sept. 16.

Mr. Banks said under questioning by Dist. Atty. Neal P. McCaslin that a blood stain on a pair of blue jeans found in the Reece apartment and

flecks of blood on a flowered shirt were of human origin. Laboratory examinations of the underpants worn by the murder victim when her body was found in a ditch near Elmira on Sept. 16 showed intact male sperm cells, Banks testified. There was insufficient fluid however, to allow blood typing in this case either, he said.

Superior Judge Ellis R. Randall allowed several lighter moments in the court room during Mr. Banks' cross-examination by court-appointed defense attorney Ronald Moe of Dixon.

At one point, Mr. Moe reached into his topcoat and withdrew several bullets—whereupon the district attorney asked that the record show that Mr. Moe was carrying bullets in his pockets.

Then, Mr. Moe produced two shoe heels from the same coat, Mr. McCaslin said, "Let the record also show that Mr. Moe now has heels in his pockets."

Mr. Moe did elicit from Mr. Banks that the brand of shoe for which plaster casts were made of heel prints at the scene where Miss Rebiejo's body was found would be of the same measurement whether they were size 13A or 13C or even 12D. Size 13D shoes linked by Mr. McCaslin to the plaster castings were found in Reece's apartment by Mr. Matlock.

Rebiejo Case Defense Rests

APR - 9 1976

Special to The Tribune

FAIRFIELD—The defense for the man accused of the kidnap, rape and murder of Debra Ann Rebiejo surprised the court here yesterday, resting its case in less than two hours after calling just four defense witnesses.

James Reece, 32, is on trial before Solano County Superior Court Judge Ellis R. Randall in the alleged abduction of Miss Rebiejo, 21, of San Lorenzo, from the Chabot College campus in Hayward Sept. 15. The girl's body was found in a ditch near Elmira in Solano County the following morning.

District Attorney Neal P. McCaslin completed the prosecution's case shortly before noon yesterday. Defense attorney Ronald Moe began his defense at about 2 p.m. after a delay while opposing sides argued the admissibility of testimony Mr. Moe wished to present.

Mr. Moe led off his four witnesses with Mrs. Barbara Blake, general manager for Valley Properties of Davis, who said she rented Reece the apartment he resided in at the time of Miss Rebiejo's disappearance. Mrs. Blake took the witness stand to say she had seen Reece twice on the morning of the day he supposedly raped and shot a Woodland wig store clerk. The second time she saw him the morning of Sept. 16 was "around 11 or 11:30 a.m., pacing back and forth" in front of the office of an adjoining apartment house, she said.

Under Mr. Moe's question-

Brown Wins Support

Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr.'s presidential bid today won the endorsement of two influential Democratic Contra Costa County legislators, Rep. George Miller and Assembly Speaker Pro-Tem John Knox.

In joint statements from Washington and Sacramento, Miller and Assemblyman Knox called Gov. Brown a "proven leader of presidential caliber."

Assemblyman Knox, in his statement, said, "Gov. Brown brings what I believe to be a new dimension to politics in America. He fully recognizes the need for each of us to better understand what it is that government can or cannot do."

He said Gov. Brown has

demonstrated both fiscal responsibility and a "compassion for the needs of people."

Miller noted that Gov. Brown, according to polls, is gaining wide national support.

"Without even leaving the state, Jerry Brown has achieved a national reputation as a unique sort of politician," Miller said. "People all over the country are beginning to look to him as a person who can help restore our confidence in government."

Both Assemblyman Knox and Miller have filed in the state's June 8 primary as possible delegates for Gov. Brown to the Democratic National Convention in New York City in July.

ing, she said Reece indicated to her he was waiting there for someone. She also testified that at the time he was wearing a "flowered shirt, mostly brown and beige." The shirt fit the general description of one found in the Davis apartment by police on Sept. 17, flecked with what appeared to be blood stains.

Yolo county has a hold on Reece in the assault on the Woodland clerk.

Mr. Moe briefly recalled to the stand Alameda County Sheriff Sgt. Edward Gruidl, a

previous prosecution witness. Mr. Gruidl said he questioned Brian Roth, an acquaintance of Reece who had given Reece a key to his Hayward home some weeks before the disappearance of the coed.

After some skirmishing with McCaslin over possible haziness as to when Mr. Roth noticed that Reece's car was parked in front of Mr. Roth's home, Mr. Moe excused Mr. Gruidl from the stand.

Steve Butin of Fairfield, licensed investigator for the defense case, was called to testi-

fy briefly and the final defense witness was Sgt. James Newcomb, of the Fairfield Police Department. Testifying as a ballistic expert, Mr. Newcomb said that grooves and other markings on bullet fragments fired from Reece's .357 magnum handgun in department of justice tests were similar to those produced by other guns. He said six other makes of .38 revolvers, two kinds of automatics and four magnum handguns would leave similar markings.

Judge Randall is to meet with Mr. McCaslin and Mr. Moe at 2 p.m. Monday to go over instructions he will give the jury. Closing arguments are scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

A second trial, to determine the defendant's sanity, will follow the present "case in chief" if the jury finds Reece guilty. Reece has entered dual pleas of innocent and innocent by reason of insanity.

Rebiejo Murder

Reece Convicted

APR 14 1976

Special to The Tribune
FAIRFIELD—James Reece was convicted by a Solano County Superior Court jury last night of the kidnap, rape, robbery and murder of San Lorenzo coed Debra Ann Rebiejo, 21.

Reece, 32, will face the same jury of four women and

eight men Tuesday for the "special circumstances" phase of the trial. The jurors could hand down a death sentence.

The verdict was reached at 9:30 p.m., after only four hours of deliberations at the end of the three-week trial.

Reece, who sat impassively

through the prosecution and defense cases, appeared equally calm as the jurors were individually polled.

He was found guilty of kidnapping Miss Rebiejo from the Chabot College parking lot Sept. 15 as she left a night school Spanish class, of raping her at the Hayward home of a friend of his, and of fatally shooting her in the back and head near Elmira later that night.

The bullet-riddled body was found in a roadside culvert the next morning, hours before Reece was wounded and arrested after another alleged rape and shooting in Woodland.

Trial Judge Ellis Randall will hear motions tomorrow regarding Reece's plea of innocent by reason of insanity. If the judge grants such a motion, Reece could be sent to a state mental institution until judged sane enough for sentencing.

District Attorney Neal McCaslin, in his final argument, called Reece, an ex-convict, a "rapist on the prowl" who killed Miss Rebiejo and the next day raped and shot a Woodland store clerk.

Slayer Cancels Insanity Plea

APR 16 1976

Special to The Tribune

FAIRFIELD—Convicted murderer James Reece's plea of insanity was unexpectedly withdrawn here yesterday by court-appointed defense attorney Ronald Moe of Dixon.

This means the case will move directly to the "special circumstances" phase which automatically involves the death penalty if the jury finds that Reece's acts meet the

criteria in the state's penal code.

This phase of the trial is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Tuesday before Solano County Superior Court Judge Ellis R. Randall.

The same jury that found Reece guilty of the murder, robbery, kidnap and rape of Debra Ann Rebiejo will hear the special circumstances phase. Judge Randall said that because both defense and prosecution are expected to call several psychiatric witnesses, this portion of the trial could easily last a week or more.

The jury found Reece guilty after three hours and 45 minutes of deliberation Tuesday night.

Victim's Family Protests

APR 20 1976

By VIRGIL MEIBERT

Tribune Sacramento Bureau

The family of murder victim Debra Ann Rebiejo delivered its protest petitions to the state capitol yesterday, bitterly denouncing the system of easy paroles which put

her ex-convict killer back on the streets.

"I swore on the day of her death that I wouldn't rest until something positive was done," said 27-year-old Wayne Rebiejo — Debra's brother — as the family presented peti-

tions with 50,000 signatures on them to Sen. H. R. Richardson, R-Areadia.

James Reece, a 32-year-old former convict with a long record of violent crime has been convicted of Miss Rebiejo's rape-murder last September. He was to be sentenced today.

At the time that 21-year-old Miss Rebiejo — who resided with her family in San Lorenzo — was found shot to death in Solano County, Reece had been free from a state prison medical facility less than two months.

He had been released after spending only three and one-half years in custody despite the sentencing judge's admonition that he never be paroled.

The Rebiejo's — mother, Mary, and father, Anthony — were particularly critical of state Adult Authority Chairman Raymond Procnier yesterday.

"As far as I'm concerned, he is just as guilty as Reece for the death of my daughter," Mr. Rebiejo said.

"I lost my only daughter . . . I'd like to see it happen to them (lenient parole officials) some time," Mrs. Rebiejo said.

Concerning Mr. Procnier, she added:

"I feel he helped hand that gun to Reece. That man had no right to be out in society. He's an animal."

The family gave its petitions to Sen. Richardson, a persistent Capital critic of Mr. Procnier and the state's parole procedures.

The senator is the author of proposed legislation, SB 1880, which would establish fixed, mandatory prison terms for all felonies and would require multiplied sentences for repeat offenders.

Sen. Richardson also criticized Mr. Procnier, labeling him a "master at giving excuses" and saying he "never takes punitive action against his people for their failures."

Contacted about the Rebiejo comments, Mr. Procnier simply said that he has met with the family members and, as a consequence, "understands the terrible sense of grief and frustration they feel."

The petitions, many of which were signed outside churches throughout the state, label today's imprisonment and rehabilitation efforts a "failure" and demand a review of the Adult Authority's decision to parole Reece.

Defense Tells Reece History

APR 21 1976

Special to The Tribune

FAIRFIELD—The defense for convicted murderer James Reece lost no time in painting a picture of a remiss California Adult Authority for paroling Reece with no safeguards as his trial entered the special circumstance phase to determine whether Reece will receive the death penalty.

In his opening statement yesterday, court-appointed defense attorney Ronald Moe told the same jury that found Reece guilty of the abduction of Debra Ann Rebiejo from Chabot College and her subsequent rape and murder that Reece:

- Was for many years a chronic paranoid-schizophrenic.
- Had a history of 12 years of recurrent mental illness including aberrant sexual behavior.
- Was released last July 29 from the California Medical

Facility with no maintenance psychotherapeutic drugs, although he had been on heavy dosages while there.

- Was released without provision for psychiatric supervision or outpatient treatment.

Mr. Moe told the jury these conditions led to "disintegration" of Reece's mental state after his release to the extent "he was incapable of the ability to premeditate or deliberate" in the Rebiejo crime.

"Therefore, none of the special circumstances which would automatically require the death penalty hold true," Mr. Moe said.

Mr. Moe's first witness was Robert Palo, parole agent for the Department of Corrections who testified under defense questioning that it would be considered unusual to not make outpatient clinic visits a condition of parole in light of Reece's background.

Paroling Killer a 'Mistake'

APR 22 1976

Special to The Tribune

FAIRFIELD—Paroling James Reece last July was an "administrative mistake," a psychiatrist for his defense testified yesterday in the death penalty phase of the trial of the convicted murderer.

Defense attorney Ronald Moe drew from Dr. Captain Thomson, a psychiatrist and program director for Yolo County mental health services, that "an administrative mistake" was made when Dr. Alvin Groupe, chief psychiatrist at the California Medical Facility at Vacaville, recommended parole of Reece.

Dr. Thomson also voiced his surprise that Reece had, in effect, been cast adrift in the community with neither strict supervision, outpatient clinic treatment or continued drug therapy as conditions of his parole.

Reece, 32, was paroled from CMF by the California Adult Authority July 29. Less than two months later—Sept. 15—he kidnaped Debra Ann Rebieio from the Chabot College

campus, raped her, then shot her five times and dumped her body near a ditch near Vacaville.

Both sides rested yesterday and closing arguments are scheduled to begin this morning.

Dr. Thomson revealed for the first time in this trial Reece's criminal background relative to his diagnosis of the

defendant as a paranoid-schizophrenic of a chronic and recurring nature.

The psychiatrist said, at the age of 15, Reece attempted to rape his school teacher; at 16, again attempted rape and was sent to the California Youth Authority, and in 1964 in Alameda County was found to be a mentally disordered sex offender and was sent to Atas-

cadero State Hospital for 25 months. In 1966 in San Diego, he was determined to be paranoid-schizophrenic and unable to stand trial and was sent to Patton State Hospital.

In 1967 in Alameda County, he was again found unable to stand trial on robbery charges and was again sent to Atascadero, where he spent 32 months in treatment. Al-

though the staff there still thought him psychotic, Reece wrote and asked to be tried and was returned to Alameda county, Dr. Thomson testified.

At that time, Dr. Thomson continued, Reece secretly stopped taking his antipsychotic drugs and performed one of several acts of self-mutilation that have marked his psychiatric and criminal past.

The administrative mistake alluded to by the psychiatrist was that Dr. Groupe, who had treated Reece during his five-year stay at CMF on a "life sentence" from Alameda County, would involve himself in recommending Reece's parole.

"I feel that Dr. Groupe was not in a good position to make an objective recommendation as to this man's risk to society. I think it's an administrative error to ask the treating physician to make such a recommendation to the Adult Authority," Dr. Thomson testified.

Reece Jury In 2nd Day

APR 23 1976

Special to The Tribune

FAIRFIELD—The jury in the death penalty phase of the trial of convicted murderer James Reece was locked up for the night after failing yesterday to reach a verdict by 10:05 p.m.

The same panel on April 13 found Reece, 32, guilty of the kidnap, rape, robbery and murder of Debra Ann Rebiejo, 21, of San Lorenzo.

The jury retired to begin deliberations after receiving instructions from Solano County Superior Court Judge Ellis R. Randall in the special circumstance phase of the trial which began Tuesday.

If Reece is found guilty of any one of the four required special circumstances, the death penalty will be mandatory.

Death Sentence for Killer of Coed

APR 24 1976

Special to The Tribune

FAIRFIELD— Convicted murderer James Reece became the first person to receive the death penalty in Solano County in seven years with the finding of a jury yesterday that he was guilty of all four "special circumstances" as charged in the Sept. 15 slaying of Debra Ann Rebiejo of San Lorenzo.

The jury returned "true" findings that Reece, 32,:

- Willfully, deliberately and with premeditation personally committed the murder during the commission of a robbery.

- Murdered her during commission of rape.

- Murdered her to prevent her testifying against him.

- Committed the murder during the commission of a kidnaping.

The 21-year-old victim disappeared from the Chabot College campus in Hayward after an evening class and her body, shot five times, was found Sept. 16 in a drainage ditch near Vacaville.

Tears filled Reece's eyes by the time court clerk Betty Belfiore reached the second special circumstance reading, but he said nothing.

The panel—which found Reece guilty of kidnap, robbery, rape and murder on April 13 in the main phase of the trial—

began deliberations at 2 p.m. Thursday.

At 10:30 a.m. yesterday word was sent out that a verdict had been reached.

Unusual security precautions included moving spectators to seats back of the first two rows of the rear of the courtroom. Reece has a past record of violent outbursts in courtrooms including an occasion in Alameda County in January, 1971 when it took eight bailiffs to subdue him—although he was heavily shackled—and he finally had to be knocked unconscious. This was when he was sentenced to "life imprisonment" in Oakland on nine felony counts of robbery.

The State Adult Authority paroled

Reece last July 29. Six weeks later he murdered the San Lorenzo coed.

Solano County Superior Court Judge Victor M. Castagnetto heard yesterday's verdict. Judge Ellis R. Randall has presided throughout the case which began March 23 but had to leave Thursday night to attend a judicial conference.

May 7 was set for sentencing and motions by mutual stipulation by District Attorney Neal P. McCaslin and defense attorney Ronald Moe. Reece said his one word of the day, "Yeah," when asked if he agreed to the stipulation. Moe is expected to ask for a new trial and an appeal is automatic.

Gas Chamber For Slayer

MAY - 8 1976

Special to The Tribune

FAIRFIELD—The convicted slayer of San Lorenzo coed Debra Ann Rebiejo has been formally sentenced to die in the San Quentin prison gas chamber.

James Reece appeared in Solano County Superior Court yesterday before Judge Ellis R. Randall. Immediately after the sentencing, he was taken under heavy guard and manacled hand and feet directly to San Quentin's death row.

A last-ditch to save Reece was made by his court-appointed attorney Ronald Moe of Dixon. In a motion for a new trial, Mr. Moe argued on two primary points: the publicity attendant on the trial, which he said created "an atmosphere of prejudice" against his client and that Reece's mental state at the time of the crime made it "impossible for him to wilfully, deliberately and with premeditation," commit the offense.

Reece kidnaped Miss Rebiejo last Sept. 15 from Hayward's Chabot College campus, robbed, raped and murdered her. Her body was found the following morning in a ditch near Vacaville.

Mr. Moe took special exception to three area newspapers using a related picture and story the day the death penalty phase of the trial began. It delt with acceptance by State Senator H. L. Richardson, R; Los Angeles, of petitions with more than 50,000 signatures presented to him by the Rebiejo family. The petition protested the "permissiveness" of the state Adult Authority in paroling Reece. Reece was released on parol from the California Medical Facility at Vacaville less than six weeks before the Rebiejo slaying. He was serving a "life term" on felony convictions from Alameda County.

Defense attorney Moe also asked that the court accept the testimony of defense psychiatrist Dr. Captane Thomson of Woodland, program chief of Yolo County mental health services, and dismiss that of prosecution psychiatrist Dr. Stephen Raffle of

Berkeley. The two had divergent views of Reece's mental capabilities.

District Attorney Neal P. McCaslin challenged the motion for a new trial. He argued that the defense itself introduced the "problem" with the adult authority; that the jury was admonished daily by the judge not to read the newspaper stories on the case; and that Reece's "sordid background" was explored by Dr. Thomson beginning with the condemned man's attempt to rape a teacher when he was 12 years of age.

The district attorney stated that "the right of a free press is basic to a free country." He also held that "Senator Richardson's outrage," as reported in the newspapers "when weighed against Dr. Thomson's test that Reece should have been paroled only with continuing psychiatric and medical care, amounts to no prejudice."

Although Judge Randall denied the defense motion for a new trial, he did say in chambers later that "it is possible," that the higher court might reverse the penalty on the grounds of the photo and story appearing at the crucial phase of the death penalty trial.

'The Rebiejo Act'

Plan to Halt Killings

MAY 12 1976

Tribune Sacramento Bureau

Reacting to last year's murder of a 21-year-old San Lorenzo woman by a recently paroled convict, an Eastbay assemblyman has proposed tough new legislation requiring public parole hearings and increasing minimum prison sentences.

Assemblyman Alister McAlister, D-San Jose, yesterday amended two existing bills to write into law what he calls "The Debbie Rebiejo Act."

Miss Rebiejo was the Chabot College coed who was kidnapped and murdered last year by James Reece, now under a death sentence for that crime.

Reece had been convicted of several violent crimes in Alameda County in 1971 but had been released on parole by the state Adult Authority in 1975, less than two months before the Rebiejo murder.

Assemblyman McAlister said he has the permission of Miss Rebiejo's parents to title his legislation in her memory.

"The need for this reform is

apparent when it is learned that in 1975, 68 state prison parolees were arrested for unlawful homicides" the Assemblyman said.

"In the first quarter of 1976, 25 state prison parolees have been arrested for unlawful homicides. If that rate continues, there will be 100 state prison parolees arrested this year for unlawful homicide."

Under present law, parole hearings are not open to the public and there is no requirement that reasons be stated for granting paroles.

Under Assemblyman McAlister's legislation, judges and law-enforcement officers would have to be notified of pending parole hearings. The hearings would be open to the public and public transcripts of the proceedings would be made.

In addition, the Adult Authority would have to make a specific finding that a prospective parolee no longer is a danger to society before he could be paroled.

The McAlister bill also would extend minimum prison terms before felons become eligible for parole.

Under existing law, a prisoner who receives a life sentence actually is eligible for parole in seven years. Assemblyman McAlister's legislation would extend that minimum term to 15 years.

And, under existing law, a prisoner whose minimum term is more than one year is eligible for parole after serving only one-third of the minimum term.

The McAlister bill would require that all prisoners sentenced for more than one year serve the actual minimum term.

Murder Victim's Family Sues

JUN 12 1976

The family of Debbie Rebiejo is suing the State of California, its parole and prison agencies and two private corporations for her death at the hands of ex-convict James Reece.

The 21-year-old Chabot College coed vanished from the campus on the night of Sept. 14 last year. Her body was found in Solano County the next day, riddled with bullets. Reece was subsequently arrested by Yolo County police after a running gun battle. He was found guilty of kidnaping and murdering Miss Rebiejo in a Solano County trial last April. He has been sentenced to death.

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Rebiejo, and her brother, Anthony, brought action yesterday in Alameda County Superior Court against the State of California, the Adult Authority, the Parole Board and a Vacaville Medi-

cal facility, alleging negligence in releasing him from prison, to which he had been sentenced for "life" after a 1971 violence spree in Alameda County.

Her family, who had obtained 50,000 signatures on a petition calling for reform of the parole release system, had earlier made a \$1 million claim against the state for her wrongful death. The state denied the claim on Dec. 16, according to Oakland attorney Robert V. McClosky, who filed the family's suit yesterday.

In a 50-page complaint, the suit alleges negligence, breach of duty, negligent supervision and wrongful death, stating that Reece had on numerous occasions been diagnosed as gravely disturbed, "a menace to himself and others, emotionally unstable, sexually disturbed, a psychotic with violent tendencies, especially toward young women."

Slayer's Competency Ruling Due

MAR 17 1977

Special to The Tribune

WOODLAND — Because a jury deadlocked on the question, a Yolo County judge will decide whether convicted murderer James Reece is competent to stand trial for four felonies that he allegedly committed after raping and killing San Lorenzo coed Debbie Rebiejo.

In April of last year, Reece was found sane enough to stand trial in Solano County for Miss Rebiejo's death, and thus was also judged competent to stand trial on charges of raping and shooting a Woodland saleswoman and shooting at police as they sought to apprehend him.

But on the eve of his trial here on those charges, Reece stabbed himself in the groin with a pen.

Because of that, his attorney, Deputy Public Defender Garry McCurdy, requested a sanity hearing.

That jury deadlocked last week on the question after hearing conflicting testimony on Reece's mental state. Defense psychiatrists said the man is hopelessly psychotic, while a prosecution doctor said that Reece could cooperate in his defense if he were given heavy doses of psychotropic drugs.

Because the jury deadlocked, Superior Court Judge Warren Taylor declared a mistrial.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Charles Van Court decided to seek another trial. Before that could convene, however, defense attorney McCurdy agreed to let the judge

decide the sanity issue because neither attorney intended to present new evidence. Judge Taylor is expected to rule on the question within 10 days.

Reece was convicted of raping and murdering Miss Rebiejo in September, 1975, six weeks after he was certified as rehabilitated and released from the Vacaville Medical Facility.

The day after Miss Rebiejo's death, Reece allegedly raped and shot the saleswoman in Woodland, then shot it out with police attempting to arrest him. He is charged, among other things, with burglary with the intent to commit rape, rape and assault with a deadly weapon.

Yolo County wants killer-rapist

SEP 29 1981

From Tribune wire reports

Convicted killer-rapist James Reece of Oakland is eligible for parole Sept. 13, 1982, but Yolo County wants to try him for a wig shop shooting before he's set free, the Sacramento Union reported.

Reece, now 37, was sentenced to death for the Sept. 15, 1975, slaying of college student Debbie Ann Rebiejo of San Lorenzo. The state Supreme Court saved him from execution.

The Union said Sunday that

between his first commitment to the California Youth Authority at age 14 and Rebiejo's slaying. Reece, of Oakland, had spent only 3½ years out of custody for crimes including rape, robbery, kidnapping and sodomy.

Last week, a three-member panel of the state parole board held Reece's first parole hearing at San Quentin Prison, but Reece did not attend.

The panel later issued a 10-page ruling that called his crime "an extraordinary act of vio-

lence (with) a high degree of cruelty, viciousness and callousness," and denied parole.

The hearing was open because of the Debbie Rebiejo Act, incorporated into the 1977 determinate sentencing law. Previously, few persons outside the parole system would know of a convict's release.

The act requires not only open hearings, but also notice of parole proceedings to prosecutors, police, judges and defense attorneys.

Pist tried in shooting case

In 1975, Reece had been out on parole only 50 days when Rebiejo was slain in Solano County. He had served only four years on three concurrent life sentences.

A short time after Rebiejo's body was discovered, Reece showed up in nearby Davis, in Yolo County, forced the female employee of a wig shop into a back room, forced her into sex acts, and fired a pistol in the back of her neck, said District Attorney Charles Van Court. But the bullet went out the side of

the neck, missing the spinal cord, and the victim recovered.

Van Court said he wants to try Reece on four felony charges stemming from that occasion.

After the Solano County trial for Rebiejo's slaying, a Yolo County judge ruled after a week-long sanity trial that Reece wasn't mentally competent to stand trial for the wig shop offenses.

Van Court said a defendant is usually sent to a state hospital until it is determined whether he

is able to stand trial. But because of the Rebiejo conviction, Reece went back to prison. Van Court said he is waiting for the state Department of Corrections to return him to Yolo County.

But Phil Guthrie, deputy director of the department, said nothing was being done to determine if and when Reece is competent to stand trial, the Union said.

Guthrie said that if Yolo County wants Reece, it will have to persuade a court to order that he be turned over.

David J. Brininger of Emeryville, Mar-

IRE JUL 8 - 1961

Burglary Suspect Faces Rape Charge

BERKELEY, July 8—James Reese, 17, of 1319 Eighth St., Oakland, is in custody at Alameda County Juvenile Hall for investigation of burglary and assault with intent to commit rape.

Reese was arrested by Sgt. Henry Sanders last night after two women living six blocks apart reported he attempted to assault them.

After his arrest he was identified by both women.